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CM Orders Expansion of Prajavani Grievance Redressal System

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to further strengthen and streamline the grievance redressal mechanism in the state, emphasizing the need to expand Prajavani services to grassroots levels for greater accessibility.

The Prajavani programme was launched on December 8, 2023, a day after the new government assumed office. Since then, it has been conducted successfully every Tuesday and Friday at the Mahatma JyotibaPhulePrajaBhavan in Hyderabad. Officials from various departments attend the sessions, receive petitions directly from citizens, and initiate prompt action for their resolution. Similar programmes are also being conducted weekly at the district level under the su-



pervision of district collectors.

At a review meeting held at MCRHRD on Sunday, the Chief Minister instructed Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao and

senior officials to decentralize Prajavani services. He noted that people from remote areas should not be required to travel long distances to Hyderabad or district headquarters and instead should have access to grievance platforms closer to their localities.

As part of this plan, the Chief Minister ordered the immediate rollout of Prajavani at the revenue division level, followed by expansion to the mandal level in the next phase. He also directed that officials at all levels be given adequate powers to resolve complaints efficiently.

Revanth Reddy stressed that every petition must be formally registered and forwarded to the concerned department, with regular updates provided to the applicant regarding progress. He called for fixed timelines for grievance resolution and warned against unneces-

sary delays.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the Chief Minister instructed the development of a unified digital platform for complaint registration, tracking, and resolution. Real-time monitoring systems at both district and state levels were also proposed.

Additionally, he ordered the appointment of dedicated nodal officers for Prajavani at all levels and the establishment of exclusive grievance cells in every department. An auto-escalation mechanism will be introduced to forward unresolved complaints to higher authorities, along with a potential appeals system.

The Chief Minister emphasized strict accountability, regular reviews, and close monitoring of pending cases, stating that decentralization would reduce backlog and enhance public trust in governance.



CM Participates in Self-Enumeration Drive for Census 2027

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday took part in the Self-Enumeration programme as part of the upcoming Census 2027 exercise, marking a significant step toward promoting public participation in the nationwide initiative.

The programme was held in Jubilee Hills, where census officials briefed the Chief Minister on the process and key features of self-enumeration. Following the demonstration, the Chief Minister registered his details through the official website, showcasing the ease and accessibility of the digital platform.

Speaking on the occasion, Revanth Reddy urged citizens across Telangana to actively participate in the self-enumeration process. He emphasized that accurate population data is essential for effective governance, planning, and implementation of welfare schemes. He also highlighted that timely participation by the public would ensure transparency and efficiency in the census process.

The Chief Minister reiterated that self-enumeration empowers citizens to directly contribute their household information, thereby improving the accuracy of data collection. He called upon all sections of society to take part in the exercise and complete the process without delay.

Senior officials present at the event included Directorate of Census Operations Director BharatiHolikeri, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Joint Principal Census Officer Priyanka Ala, and I&PR Commissioner C.H. Priyanka, along with other high-ranking officers.

The initiative is part of the larger Census 2027 programme, which aims to leverage digital tools for efficient data collection. Authorities stated that necessary support mechanisms will be provided to assist citizens in completing self-enumeration smoothly.

The event concluded with a strong appeal from the Chief Minister for widespread public participation to make the census exercise comprehensive and successful.

Telangana Seeks Greater Khelo India Support at ChintanShivir

Srinagar, April 26 | TPN Bureau

A high-level Telangana delegation participated in the three-day Khelo India ChintanShivir held in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, where key decisions were taken to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem and position the country as a global leader in sports.

State Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari, along with Govern-

ment Advisor A.P. Jitender Reddy, Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy, and Managing Director Sony Baladevi, represented Telangana at the meeting. The conclave focused on policy discussions, coordination between the Centre and states, and strategies to enhance sports infrastructure and talent development across the country.

During the deliberations, a resolution document was released outlining a collabora-

tion approach between the Union and state governments for the growth of sports. The document emphasized strengthening grassroots-level sports, improving training facilities, and identifying talent at an early stage. Speaking on the occasion, MinisterVakiti Srihari assured that the Telangana government would extend full support to all initiatives undertaken by the Centre for sports development. He highlighted that the state has already intro-

duced a dedicated sports policy aimed at promoting athletes and building robust infrastructure.

The minister also appealed to Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to allocate higher funds to Telangana under the prestigious Khelo India programme. He stated that increased financial support would help the state expand training facilities, nurture young talent, and achieve better performance at national

and international levels.

Officials at the event stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to elevate India's standing in global sports competitions. The Telangana delegation reiterated its commitment to contributing actively to the nation's sporting ambitions.

The ChintanShivir concluded with a shared vision to accelerate sports development through stronger collaboration and targeted investments across all states.



RTC Unions Felicitate Minister Over ‘Historic’ Decisions

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Leaders of RTC Joint Action Committee (JAC) and various workers' unions on Sunday felicitated Transport Minister PonnampPrabhakar, expressing gratitude over what they termed as "historic decisions" taken by the state government to address long-pending issues of RTC employees.

The union leaders welcomed the government's move to hold discussions with workers and resolve their concerns, calling it a major step toward strengthening public transport services. They particularly lauded the merger of RTC into the government, which they described as a long-cherished dream of employees.

The announcement of conducting recognition union elections and the declaration of an 11 percent Pay Revision Commission (PRC) hike for RTC workers were also met with enthusiasm. Union leaders, including Venkanna, Thomas Reddy, Ashwaddhama Reddy, HanumanthuMudiraj,

and others, thanked the minister for prioritizing the welfare of employees and ensuring their voices were heard.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister PonnampPrabhakar said the government remains committed to safeguarding the interests of RTC workers while improving the efficiency of public transport. He urged employees to work with renewed dedication and enthusiasm to further strengthen the transport system in the state.

The minister emphasized that the recent decisions would not only benefit workers but also enhance service quality for passengers. He noted that a motivated workforce is key to building a reliable and efficient public transportation network.

The event witnessed participation from several union representatives, who expressed confidence that the government's proactive approach would bring long-term benefits to both employees and commuters across Telangana.

Minister Flags Off Oral Cancer Awareness Marathon

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Sunday cautioned that the use of gutka, pan masala, drugs, and khaini can lead to serious health risks, including life-threatening conditions. He stressed that the Telangana government is taking stringent measures to curb drug abuse and illegal sale of narcotics across the state. The minister was speaking after participating in an Oral Cancer Awareness Marathon organized by the Global Oral Cancer Trust at Sattva Knowledge Park in Raidurgam. He flagged off the 10K run and urged the youth to stay away from harmful addictions and focus on building a healthier and brighter future. Highlighting the growing health concerns due to substance abuse, Sridhar Babu said that unhealthy habits are leading to an increase in preventable deaths. He emphasized the need for widespread awareness campaigns against tobacco and related products, which are known to cause serious diseases like cancer. He also encouraged young people to adopt positive habits such as yoga and regular exercise.



Cyberabad Police Commissioner Ramesh flagged off the 5K run, while former BC Commission Chairman Dr. Vakulabharanam Krishna Mohan Rao inaugurated the 2K run. Speaking on the occasion, he noted that lakhs of people lose their lives every year in India due to oral cancer and underlined the importance of early prevention. Global Oral Cancer

Trust Chairman Dr. K. Dileep Kumar stated that the marathon was organized to spread awareness about oral cancer and its early detection. He advised people to undergo regular health check-ups, as early diagnosis can significantly improve treatment outcomes. The event saw participation from IT professionals, doctors, youth, and dignitaries from Telangana as well as neighboring states including Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

Kishan Reddy Launches Self-Enumeration for Census

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday launched the self-enumeration process for the upcoming Census at the Dilkhusha Guest House in Hyderabad. In the presence of officials, the minister completed his own self-enumeration online and urged citizens to actively participate in the exercise.

Addressing the media, Kishan Reddy described the Census as a crucial exercise that would lay the foundation for future development planning in Telangana. He noted that this would be the first official population enumeration conducted after the formation of the state, making it highly significant for policy formulation and resource allocation.

Emphasizing the importance of public participation, the minister said self-enumeration allows citizens to directly contribute to the nation-building process. He highlighted that the facility would remain available until May 10, giving people ample time to register their details conveniently while ensuring transparency and

efficiency.

The minister clarified concerns among some citizens who fear that sharing personal details could affect their access to welfare schemes. He assured that the information collected is purely for statistical purposes and would not impact individual benefits in any way.

"Census is not just a headcount; it is a roadmap for the country's future," he said, adding that accurate data helps governments design targeted welfare programmes based on social and economic conditions in different regions.

Kishan Reddy also pointed out that allocation of funds by both central and state governments depends significantly on population data. Reliable statistics are essential for representing India's needs effectively on international platforms as well.

Calling it a "festival of democracy," the minister urged people to participate voluntarily and provide accurate information. He appealed to citizens to cooperate with officials and become active partners in shaping the country's development over the next decade.

Telangana Announces Major IAS Reshuffle

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

The Telangana government has initiated a significant reshuffle of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, issuing a series of transfer and posting orders aimed at strengthening governance and improving administrative efficiency. As per orders released on April 25, more than 30 officers have been reassigned to various key positions across depart-

ments and districts.

One of the prominent changes involves Sanjay Kumar, a 1995-batch officer who was serving as Special Chief Secretary in the Panchayati Raj and Rural Development department. He has now been appointed as Special Officer at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi. Meanwhile, M. Dana Kishore has been assigned to take over Kumar's previous role, while continuing to hold additional charge as Special Chief Secretary to the Governor.

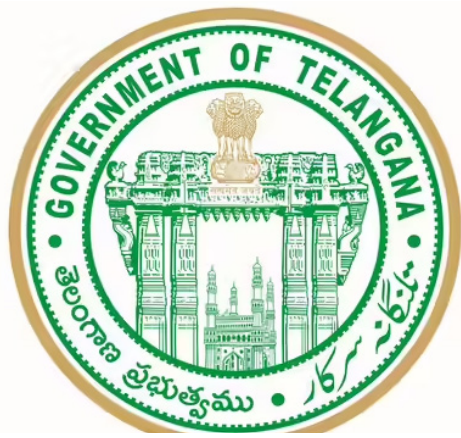
At the senior administrative level, Harichandana Dasari, who was serving as Hyderabad District Collector, has been transferred and appointed as Secretary in the Labour, Employment, Training and Factories department. Krishna Aditya S has been posted as Special Secretary in the Industries and Commerce department.

Several district-level changes have also been made. Bhavesh Mishra has been appointed as Collector of Nirmal, while Priyanka Ala will

assume charge as Hyderabad District Collector. Prateek Jain has been posted to Sangareddy, and Divakara TS has been appointed Collector of Khammam. Transfers have also been carried out in other districts, including Mulugu, Narayanpet, and Nagarkurnool, where new district magistrates have been posted.

Changes were also implemented in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, with multiple officers appointed as Zonal Commis-

sioners. P. Uday Kumar has been posted to the Golconda zone, while Badhavath Santhosh will oversee the Khairatabad zone. Newly inducted officers such as Narayan Amit Malempati, VikasMahato, and Mayank Singh have also been assigned zonal responsibilities. Officials stated that the large-scale reshuffle was carried out in the interest of better administration, aiming to enhance service delivery and streamline governance across the state.



MP Launches Rs 10 Lakh CC Road Works in Pembarthi Village

Jangaon, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Sunday inaugurated CC road construction works worth Rs 10 lakh in Pembarthi village of Jangaon district. The project is being taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-REGS) to improve rural infrastructure. The MP performed the groundbreaking ceremony and officially launched the works, emphasizing the government's commitment to strengthening basic amenities in villages. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the development of rural infrastructure, particularly roads, plays a crucial role in enhancing connectivity and improving the quality of life for residents. Kiran Kumar Reddy directed officials to ensure the timely completion of the project, stressing that such works should be executed efficiently for the benefit of the people. He noted that effective utilization

of employment guarantee funds is helping accelerate development in rural areas. The MP further stated that he is committed to transforming every village in the constituency into a model village. He assured that more funds would be allocated for developmental works in the coming days, with a focus on improving infrastructure and public services. Local representatives expressed satisfaction over the initiative and appreciated the MP's efforts in addressing the needs of the village. Residents of Pembarthi welcomed the development, stating that the new CC road would ease transportation and improve daily commuting conditions. The program was attended by SarpanchRekha Raju, Deputy Sarpanch Raju, local public representatives, mandal-level officers, party leaders, and a large number of villagers. The project is expected to significantly benefit the village by ensuring better road connectivity and boosting overall development.

MP Inaugurates Indiramma Housing Units

Jangaon, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Bhongir Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Sunday inaugurated newly constructed Indiramma houses in Jangaon constituency, marking a significant step toward fulfilling the housing needs of underprivileged families. The program was held with much enthusiasm, where the MP participated as the chief guest and formally launched the houses by performing ribbon-cutting ceremonies and conducting mass housewarming (Gruhapravesam) events along with beneficiaries. He also presented traditional clothes to the families as part of the celebrations. As part of his visit, the MP toured multiple locations, including the 21st ward in Jangaon town, Kutigal village, and ReddyaNaikThanda. At each location, he interacted with beneficiaries and personally handed over the houses, expressing satisfaction over the completion of the project. Speaking on the occasion,

Kiran Kumar Reddy stated that providing housing for the poor is a key priority of the government. He emphasized that efforts are being made to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of welfare schemes. "Owning a house is a dream for many families, and the government is committed to making that dream a reality," he said. Beneficiaries expressed happiness and gratitude to the government for providing them with permanent housing, stating that the initiative has brought stability and dignity to their lives. The event was attended by Jangaon Municipal Chairperson KadakanchiBalamani Srinivas, councillorsAndalu, Bharadwaj, Anita, Jyothi, Congress leaders Satyanarayana, Kancharamulu, Bal Reddy, Kondal Reddy, along with local residents and beneficiaries in large numbers. The program concluded on a celebratory note, reflecting the positive impact of the housing scheme on the lives of the people.

Heatwave Alert in Andhra Pradesh 23 Mandals to Face Severe Conditions

Amaravati, April 26 | TPN Bureau

The Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has issued a heatwave alert, warning that severe heatwave conditions are likely to prevail in 23 mandals across the state on Monday. Managing Director Prakhhar Jain urged the public to take necessary precautions against extreme heat and humid weather. According to the advisory, mandals in Vizianagaram, ParvathipuramManyam, and Aluri districts are expected to face severe heatwave conditions, while 26 other mandals across several districts may experience moderate heatwaves. Officials said rising temperatures and dry winds could intensify discomfort in many regions. On Sunday, several areas recorded extremely high temperatures, with Cumbum in Markapuram district touching 44.7°C, followed by Allagadda

at 44.1°C and Ontimitta at 43.8°C. Temperatures above 41°C were recorded in as many as 198 mandals across 16 districts, indicating the widespread impact of the heatwave. Authorities advised people to avoid stepping out during peak afternoon hours and to wear protective gear such as caps and sunglasses when outdoors. Special caution has been issued for elderly persons and those suffering from heart ailments, diabetes, and high blood pressure. Citizens have been urged to stay hydrated by consuming water, buttermilk, coconut water, and lemon juice regularly. Officials also stressed the importance of avoiding unnecessary travel and taking preventive steps to reduce heat exposure. The APSDMA said it is closely monitoring the situation and will continue to issue updates to ensure public safety.

Self-Enumeration for Census 2027 Launched

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

The self-enumeration facility for Census 2027 was officially launched in Telangana on Sunday, marking a significant step toward digital participation in the national population exercise. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla initiated the programme by completing his self-enumeration through the online portal, becoming the first citizen in the state to take part in the process. Later in the day, Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy also completed his self-enumeration, reinforcing the importance of public participation in the census exercise. Officials stated that the initiative aims to simplify data collection and ensure accurate population records through citizen involvement. Director of Census Operations BharatiHolikeri and GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan was present during the program and monitored the process. Authorities emphasized that the digital platform allows individuals to conveniently submit their family details, reducing the need for extensive field visits. Speaking on the occasion, GHMC Commissioner Karnan urged citizens of Hyderabad to actively participate in the self-enumeration process and contribute to the successful conduct of Census 2027. He highlighted that every household's participation is crucial for effective planning, governance, and implementation of welfare schemes. Officials also noted that self-enumeration ensures transparency and efficiency, enabling



real-time tracking and reducing delays in data compilation. Citizens have been encouraged to complete the process promptly to avoid last-minute congestion and ensure accurate representation in the national database. The launch of the self-enumeration facility is expected to enhance public engagement and streamline the census process, making Telangana a key contributor to the successful execution of Census 2027 across India.

Minister Visits Injured Environmentalist, Orders Strict Action

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

State Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha on Sunday condemned the attack on noted environmentalist and water rights activist Dusharla-Satyanarayana, calling it "an attack on humanity and nature itself." She visited him at NIMS Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment for serious injuries, and enquired about his health condition from doctors. Expressing deep concern, the minister said Satyanarayana's injured body resembled a "devastated forest," symbolizing the damage inflicted on a person dedicated to environmental protection. She emphasized that his lifelong efforts for greenery and water rights have made a lasting impact on society. Konda Surekha highlighted Satyanarayana's significant contribution as the founder of the Jal SadhanaSamithi in addressing the fluorosis problem in Nalgonda district. She recalled his relentless struggles, including protests and awareness campaigns, and noted how he once brought national



attention to the issue by demonstrating the plight of fluorosis victims before former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The minister directed Nalgonda Superintendent of Police to take strict legal action against those responsible for the attack. She assured that the government stands firmly with Satyanarayana and will extend all necessary support for his recovery. Praising his environmental initiatives, the minister said Satyanarayana had developed a 70-acre man-made forest that has become a hub for bio-

Telangana to Provide Free Sewing Machines to BC Women

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

In a major initiative aimed at empowering women from backward classes, the Telangana government has issued orders to provide automatic sewing machines to skilled BC women across the state. The scheme is designed to promote self-employment, enhance productivity, and enable women to expand tailoring-based business opportunities. According to the announcement, 1,000 women in each Assembly constituency will be provided sewing machines on a 100 percent subsidy. The initiative seeks to support women in becoming self-reliant entrepreneurs while improving their economic stability through sustainable livelihoods. Minister for BC Welfare, PonnampPrabhakar, held a review meeting with senior officials, including BC Welfare Secretary Balamaya Devi and BC Corporation Managing Director MallayyaBattu, to discuss the implementation of the scheme. During the meeting, the minister emphasized the

government's commitment to uplifting weaker sections and creating employment opportunities for women. Officials stated that applications for the scheme will be invited soon. The selection process will be carried out under the supervision of district collectors to ensure transparency and fair distribution of benefits. The decision has been taken under the guidance of the Chief Minister, with a focus on strengthening livelihood opportunities for women belonging to economically weaker sections. By providing access to modern sewing machines, the government aims to boost income generation and encourage entrepreneurship among beneficiaries. In addition to this scheme, the BC Welfare Department is also planning various skill development programs to enhance employability among unemployed youth and women. The initiative is expected to significantly improve the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries across Telangana.

State to Launch 'Scientists at Farmers' Doorstep' Programme

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Agriculture Minister TumalaNageswara Rao announced that the state will roll out a large-scale outreach initiative titled "Scientists at Farmers' Doorstep" from April 27 to May 23, in collaboration with Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University and the Agriculture Department. Under the programme, around 200 teams comprising agricultural scientists, department officials, and students will be formed to directly interact with farmers. These teams will conduct meetings in nearly 400 villages every week, aiming to create awareness among approximately 2.45 lakh farmers across the state. The initiative will focus on key agricultural practices such as reducing urea usage, promoting balanced fertilization, crop rotation, water conservation, and organic farming. Farmers will also be guided on cultivating paddy varieties that have higher market demand to improve their income levels.

The minister stated that after consultations with scientists, civil supplies officials, and millers, eight high-yielding fine paddy varieties suitable for the state have been identified. These include BPT 5204, Telangana Sona (RNR 15048), KNM 1638, Jai Sriram, HMT, WGL 962, WGL 44, and TGC 1798. Farmers were encouraged to adopt these varieties to secure better market prices. Officials have been instructed to ensure timely availability of seeds suitable for the upcoming kharif season across all districts. The minister also advised farmers to adopt crop diversification by cultivating pulses, oilseeds, vegetables, and oil palm to meet state demand and enhance profitability. Highlighting weather concerns, the minister warned of a possible El Niño impact this year, which could lead to below-normal rainfall. He urged farmers to remain cautious and follow the guidance of agricultural experts to adapt to changing climatic conditions and avoid potential losses.

Rare Orchid Species Discovered in Kondapalli Forest

Vijayawada, 26 April 2026 | TPN Bureau

In a significant botanical finding, scientists have identified a rare orchid species, Eulophiapicta, in the Kondapalli Reserve Forest of central Andhra Pradesh, Near Vijayawada. This marks the first recorded presence of the species in this region, adding to the ecological importance of the area. The discovery was made through a collaborative research effort by C. Srinivasa Reddy from SRR & CVR Government Degree College, Vijayawada; M. Tarakeswara Naidu from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam; and Satish Sutari from Vagdevi Degree & PG College, Hanumakonda. The Kondapalli Reserve Forest, part of the Eastern Ghats, is known for its rich biodiversity. Researchers observed that the region's moist and fertile soil, presence of natural water streams, and favourable climatic conditions create an ideal habitat for the growth of this orchid. The species typically flowers between August and November and is noted for its striking and attractive blooms. However, scientists have raised concerns over increasing threats to its survival. Activities such as deforestation, quarrying, tourism expansion, and urbanisation are putting pressure on the fragile ecosystem of the forest. The researchers stressed the urgent need for conservation



measures to protect this rare species and its habitat. They noted that safeguarding such plants is vital for maintaining ecological balance and preserving biodiversity. The discovery is expected to open new avenues for further research into plant diversity in central Andhra Pradesh and highlight the ecological significance of the region's forest ecosystems.



Minister Participates in Vasavi Jayanti Celebrations

Nalgonda, April 26 | TPN Bureau

State Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Sunday said he wishes every family to live with happiness and prosperity with the blessings of Goddess Vasavi Mata. He was speaking after attending the Vasavi Mata Jayanti celebrations held with grandeur at Ramakoti Sthoopa Temple in Beat Market and at Gandhi Park in Nalgonda town.

The minister participated as the chief guest and offered special prayers during the programs organized by the Arya Vysya community. He noted that this is the first time the Vasavi Mata Jayanti is being officially celebrated after the formation of the present government, calling it a significant step in recognizing cultural and spiritual traditions. Highlighting development initiatives, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy stated that the government has allocated Rs 500 crore for the development of Basara and Kaleshwaram temples as well as for Godavari Pushkaram-related works. He also re-

called long-pending assurances made to the Ramakoti temple nearly two decades ago and said that land allocations for temple development, including 120 square yards each for the temple and market yard, have been fulfilled. The minister further announced that development works at the Ramalayam in the town are underway and are expected to be completed by next year. He assured full support for the reconstruction of a building at Gandhi Park and promised to address road connectivity issues once the DMHO office is relocated.

Additionally, he said that development works at Ramalayam, Anjaneya Swamy Temple, and Shiva temple at Brahmangari Gutta will be taken up at a cost of Rs 100 crore and completed within two months. He also assured continued support for the development of traders in Prakasham Bazaar. District Collector B. Chandrashekhar, Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivas Reddy, Additional Collector Y. Ashok Reddy, and several public representatives, community members, and devotees participated in the celebrations.



Raghu Joins BRS in Presence of KTR

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

In a significant political development, Pilutla Raghu from Huzurnagar constituency joined the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in the presence of party Working President K.T. Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan on Sunday. Former Minister and MLA G. Jagadish Reddy formally welcomed him into the party.

Speaking on the occasion, Jagadish Reddy said that the youth of Telangana have decided to move forward under the leadership of K.T. Rama Rao, which is reflected in the growing number of young leaders joining the party. He stated that Raghu had assured him of working with discipline and commitment after joining BRS.

Jagadish Reddy also alleged that BRS workers in Huzurnagar constituency have been facing challenges due to the actions of Congress leaders. He criticized the Congress government over various issues, including its handling of RTC-

related matters, and called upon party members to work unitedly to bring K. Chandrashekar Rao back as Chief Minister. He expressed confidence that the BRS flag would be hoisted in Huzurnagar constituency.

Speaking after joining the party, Pilutla Raghu said he was happy to become part of what he described as his "home party." He expressed gratitude to Jagadish Reddy for inviting him into BRS and praised K.T. Rama Rao as a visionary leader who contributed to the development of Hyderabad.

Raghu also claimed that BRS has strong support in Huzurnagar and expressed confidence about the party's prospects in the constituency. He criticized Congress leader Utam Kumar Reddy, stating that despite winning multiple times, he lacks grassroots strength in the area.

The joining program witnessed participation from party leaders and supporters, marking a boost for BRS in the constituency.



KTR Slams CM, Alleges 'Identity Crisis'

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K. T. Rama Rao on Sunday launched a sharp attack on Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, alleging that criticism of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao stems from an "identity crisis."

Speaking at Telangana Bhavan, KTR claimed that even after assuming office, the Chief Minister has struggled to gain recognition. He remarked that from actors to television anchors, many fail to identify Revanth Reddy, and alleged that this frustration has led to repeated criticism of KCR for publicity.

KTR further alleged that the Congress government has failed to deliver on its electoral promises. He said commitments that were promised within 100 days remain unfulfilled even after more than two years in power. Accusing the ruling party of misleading people through "guarantee schemes," he stated that assurances made during elections have not translated into

action.

Highlighting KCR's tenure, KTR credited him with addressing long-standing issues such as fluorosis in Nalgonda through Mission Bhagiratha and improving irrigation facilities for farmers. He also pointed to major infrastructure and temple development projects as examples of the previous government's achievements.

The BRS leader alleged that despite borrowing significant funds, the current government has not delivered visible development, accusing it of mismanaging resources. He further claimed that anti-Telangana forces are regrouping and attempting to undermine the state's progress.

During the event, several leaders from the All India Forward Bloc, including Pillutla Raghu from Huzurnagar constituency, joined the BRS in the presence of KTR. Welcoming them, he expressed confidence that the party would regain power, asserting that people continue to support BRS despite political shifts in certain constituencies.

PM Modi to Visit Telangana on May 10

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Telangana on May 10, marking his first official trip to the state after beginning his third term in office. During the visit, the Prime Minister is scheduled to address a large public meeting at Secunderabad Parade Ground, with party leaders urging citizens to attend in significant numbers.

According to Kishan Reddy, the Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for multiple development projects valued at around Rs 7,000 crore. These projects include the modernization of railway stations, expansion of national highways, and the development of the Zaheerabad industrial corridor, which is expected to create substantial employment opportunities for youth in the region. Earlier, while speaking at the concluding function of Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations in Somajiguda, Kishan Reddy criticised the Congress party, accusing it of obstructing the Women's Reservation Bill and failing to uphold the ideals of B. R. Ambedkar. He alleged that Congress historically denied adequate political representation to women and Dalit communities,



while also accusing the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of misleading the public on these issues. The Union Minister dismissed statements made by leaders such as Rahul Gandhi, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin regarding delimitation, terming them "misleading." He reiterated that the Centre remains committed to fair representation across all states and highlighted initiatives like the caste-based enumeration of Backward Classes. Earlier in the day, Kishan Reddy, along with Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and state BJP president N. Ramchander Rao, listened to the Prime Minister's monthly

radio programme Mann Ki Baat. Separately, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, speaking at Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations organised by the BJP's Hyderabad Central unit, launched a strong critique of Congress leaders. He alleged that the party had historically undermined Ambedkar and failed to support women's empowerment. He also opposed suggestions to base Lok Sabha delimitation on state GDP, arguing that such a move would weaken representation for smaller regions. He asserted that the BJP continues to promote Ambedkar's vision through welfare schemes targeting SC/ST communities, including support for entrepreneurship, housing, and healthcare.

BJP Seeks MGNREGS Extension to New Municipalities

Adilabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) delegation from Nirmal district, led by district president Ritesh Rathod, met Union Minister for Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Sunday, urging the Centre to extend the benefits of the MGNREGS to newly formed municipalities such as Khanapur. The delegation highlighted that several areas, including Khanapur, were earlier major gram panchayats where the rural employment scheme was actively implemented. However, after their upgradation into urban local bodies, beneficiaries have reportedly been excluded from the scheme, affecting livelihoods of daily wage workers. Responding to the concerns, Kishan Reddy informed the delegation that the matter has already been brought to the attention of the Union Cabinet. He assured that a decision regarding the extension of MGNREGS benefits to such municipalities would be taken soon. The BJP leaders also requested



the release of additional funds for the development of Khanapur municipality. Ritesh Rathod stated that a large number of workers are losing access to job cards and employment opportunities due to the discontinuation of the scheme. He claimed that nearly 6,000 job cards have been affected in Khanapur alone. Among those who accompanied the delegation were Khanapur Municipal Chairperson Ankam Mounika Mahender and councillors Satyawati, Ashok, Sinduja, and Prakash. The issue has drawn attention to the challenges faced by workers in areas transitioning from rural to urban governance, with leaders calling for policy adjustments to ensure continued social security and employment support.

MP Mallu Ravi Hits Back at Kavitha Over Remarks on CM

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

A political war of words intensified in Telangana as Congress MP Mallu Ravi strongly countered remarks made by BRS leader K. Kavitha against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan on Sunday, Ravi condemned Kavitha's statements describing the Chief Minister's governance as "dictatorial" and "Hitler-like."

Rejecting the allegations, Mallu Ravi asserted that governance in Telangana reflects "Ram Rajya," questioning how Kavitha could compare it to authoritarian rule. He demanded that Kavitha withdraw her comments and face the public with clarity. "If she interacts with people attending her meetings, she will understand the reality," he remarked.

Ravi stated that while Kavitha has every right to form a political party and express her views, criticizing the Chief Minister and the Congress government in such terms was unwarranted. He pointed out that Kavitha held key positions in the BRS (formerly TRS) for nearly a decade and questioned

her record during that period.

Referring to her recent political stance, Ravi alleged that Kavitha distanced herself from the party after dissatisfaction over its response during her legal troubles. He also raised questions about the previous BRS government's policies, asking why initiatives like free bus travel for women were not introduced during their tenure. Highlighting welfare measures of the current government, Ravi said the Congress has implemented schemes such as free bus travel for women and improved food distribution, contrasting them with what he termed limited benefits under the previous regime. He further criticized the lack of adequate representation for women in the earlier cabinet and questioned why such issues were not raised then. Ravi accused the previous government of pushing Telangana's progress backward despite being in power for ten years. The exchange marks a sharp escalation in political rhetoric between Congress and BRS leaders ahead of upcoming political developments in the state.

TPCC Issues Show-Cause Notices Over Anti-Party Activities

Hyderabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Discipline Committee Chairman Mallu Ravi on Sunday stated that the party has initiated action against leaders accused of working against Congress during the recent municipal elections in Palakurthi constituency.

Speaking at Gandhi Bhavan, Mallu Ravi said that complaints were received from Palakurthi MLA Yashaswini and party in-charge Jhansi Reddy alleging that Hari Prasad and Krishna Kishore had acted against party interests. Based on these complaints, the TPCC has issued notices to both individuals seeking an explanation.

Ravi informed that Krishna Kishore reportedly conveyed that he is currently in the United States, while Hari Prasad cited a family function as the reason for his absence. However, the party has decided to issue formal show-cause notices, giving them ten days to submit a detailed explanation.

He emphasized that individuals holding responsible posi-

tions must maintain discipline and refrain from making statements in the media that could harm the party's image. "If leaders speak irresponsibly or act independently without coordination, it will lead to damage to the party," he said.

The committee has also taken suo motu cognizance of such issues and discussed them internally. Ravi advised party members to bring any grievances to the notice of the PCC President or party in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, and, where necessary, to the attention of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy regarding governance matters.

On labour issues, Mallu Ravi stated that the government has addressed all major demands of RTC workers and reaffirmed that the Congress-led government will not allow injustice towards labourers. He expressed sorrow over the recent death of a worker, calling it unfortunate.

The TPCC leadership reiterated its commitment to maintaining discipline within the party and ensuring unity among its ranks.





Grand Vasavi Jayanti Celebrations Held

Sangareddy, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Vasavi Mata Jayanti was celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion in Sangareddy district headquarters on Sunday, drawing large participation from devotees and members of the Arya Vysya community.

As part of the celebrations, a massive bike rally was organized under the leadership of Vasavi Mahasanthan Chairman Topaji AnanthaKishan. The rally commenced from the Government Guest House and passed through the new bus stand, Collectorate, and old bus stand before concluding at the Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshwari Temple. Participants raised slogans such as "Jai Vasavi"



throughout the procession, creating a vibrant and devotional atmosphere across the town.

Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIIC) Chairperson Nirmala Jagareddy attended the program as the chief guest and offered special prayers at the temple. Speaking on the occasion, she highlighted the cultural and

spiritual significance of Goddess Vasavi and emphasized the importance of preserving traditions.

At the temple, women devotees performed collective Kumkuma Arhana and recited Lalitha Sahasranamam, adding to the spiritual fervor of the celebrations. The event also featured a ceremonial Palaki Seva of the goddess,

which was witnessed by a large number of devotees.

Arya Vysya women, community leaders, and local residents participated in large numbers, making the event a grand success. Organizers ensured smooth conduct of the rally and religious programmes.

In addition to the community-led events, the state government also organized official Jayanti celebrations at the district Collectorate. Tahsildar Jairam Naik and other officers took part in the program, marking the government's recognition of the occasion.

The celebrations concluded on a devotional note, reflecting unity, cultural pride, and spiritual harmony among the participants.



Attack on RTC Driver Condemned

Nalgonda, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has strongly condemned the attack on an RTC bus driver that occurred on Sunday morning between Nalgonda and Dilsukhnagar. The incident involved an RTC hire bus (TG05U3219) and has raised concerns over the safety of public transport staff on duty.

According to official information, the bus was operating on its regular route, picking up passengers at various stops from Nalgonda. As the vehicle approached the IT Tower area in Nalgonda, a man traveling on a motorcycle with his wife reportedly overtook the bus and forced it to stop. The individual allegedly intended to board the bus but, in the process, obstructed its movement and attacked the driver, identified as T. Ram Kumar.

Upon being informed of the incident, the Minister immediately spoke with district police

authorities and directed them to conduct a thorough investigation. Police officials briefed him on the sequence of events, confirming that the accused had intercepted the bus and physically assaulted the driver while he was performing his duties.

Expressing serious concern, Ponnamp Prabhakar stated that any attack on RTC staff would not be tolerated under any circumstances. He emphasized that strict action would be taken against those who endanger the safety of public servants.

The police have registered a case against the accused and confirmed his arrest. Authorities are now taking steps to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the future.

The Minister also assured full support to RTC workers, reiterating the government's commitment to safeguarding their welfare and ensuring a secure working environment across the state's transport network.

Minister Attends Temple Board Oath Ceremony

Nagarkurnool, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on Sunday participated in the oath-taking ceremony of the newly formed temple committee of Dindi Kattamaisamma Temple in Nagarkurnool district, along with local MLA Vamshi Krishna. The event was held with religious fervour, drawing participation from devotees and local leaders. Congratulating the newly appointed committee members, the minister emphasized the importance of temple management in ensuring better facilities for devotees. He urged the committee to focus on providing basic amenities and improving infrastructure within the temple premises. He also suggested mobilizing support from donors to construct sheds for the convenience of pilgrims visiting the temple.

Ponnamp Prabhakar expressed hope that, with the blessings of Goddess Kattamaisamma, the temple would witness significant development in the coming days. He highlighted that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth



Reddy, is committed to implementing welfare schemes and development initiatives across Telangana. Speaking on welfare measures, the minister announced a new scheme aimed at empowering women from weaker sections. Under this initiative, 1,000 women in each constituency will be provided sewing machines with 100 percent subsidy to promote self-employment and financial independence, particularly in rural areas. He also referred to the government's recent decision on RTC workers, stating that after extensive discus-

sions lasting over 15 hours involving a group of ministers led by the Deputy Chief Minister, key issues of transport employees were resolved. The minister further stated that steps are being taken to strengthen public transport, ensuring bus connectivity to every village in the future. He added that free bus travel for women will continue to empower them while contributing to the growth of RTC services. The program concluded with blessings and optimism for both temple development and public welfare initiatives



Minority Leaders' Meet Held

Adilabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

An "Atmiya Sammelanam" of minority leaders from the Congress party was held with enthusiasm in Ichoda under the Boath constituency on Sunday. The meeting witnessed large participation from minority representatives and party workers across the constituency.

Organized under the leadership of minority Congress leaders, the programme focused on key issues such as the development of minority communities, enhancing their political participation, and addressing local concerns. Leaders engaged in detailed discussions on ensuring fair representation for minorities within the party and providing them with greater opportunities in upcoming local body elections. Speakers at the event emphasized the need to prioritize minority welfare in government schemes and ensure that benefits reach deserving sections without delay. They also highlighted the impor-

tance of identifying grass-roots-level issues in villages and resolving them promptly through coordinated efforts.

Participants included minority sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, ward members, and party leaders from nearly 10 mandals in the Boath constituency. The large turnout reflected growing engagement and unity among minority congress activists in the region.

During the meeting, leaders assured that they would soon organize a delegation of minority representatives to meet senior leaders and bring key problems to their attention for resolution. They reiterated their commitment to strengthening the party at the grass-roots level while working towards the socio-economic upliftment of minority communities.

The event concluded with a call for collective efforts to ensure inclusive growth, political empowerment, and effective implementation of welfare initiatives for minorities in the constituency.

Teen's Death Sparks Suspicion

Suryapet, April 26 | TPN Bureau

A 13-year-old boy was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Huzurnagar of Suryapet district on Sunday, triggering tension in the locality after his parents put forward conflicting versions of the incident.

The deceased, identified as K. Kartheek, had recently completed Class VII at a private school. According to police officials, the boy's father, Koteswar Rao, initially informed relatives that his son had died by suicide while alone at home. He claimed that he discovered the boy's body after returning from his vegetable business.

However, the situation took a serious turn when the boy's mother, Vijaya, alleged foul play. She accused her husband of killing their son and attempting to misrepresent the incident as a suicide. Vijaya claimed that Koteswar Rao strangled Kartheek follow-

ing ongoing personal disputes between the couple.

Police sources revealed that the couple had been married for about 15 years but had been living separately for nearly a decade due to differences. Vijaya had been staying with her parents in Huzurnagar along with the child. About two years ago, Koteswar Rao reportedly returned and began residing in the same house while continuing his livelihood as a vegetable vendor.

Huzurnagar Sub-Inspector B. Mohan Babu confirmed that a case of suspicious death has been registered. Authorities are examining all angles, including the allegations made by the mother, to ascertain the exact cause of death.

The incident has raised concerns among locals, with police maintaining a close watch in the area to prevent any escalation of tension. Further investigation is currently in progress.

Sangem Charitable Trust Marks 266 Weeks of Food Service

Adilabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Demonstrating unwavering commitment to social service, the Sangem Charitable Trust has successfully completed 266 consecutive weeks of its weekly free food distribution programme in Adilabad. The initiative, aimed at supporting the underprivileged, continues to receive appreciation from local residents and social activists.

On Sunday, the trust organized its latest food distribution drive at a public transit area in Adilabad town, where meals were served to a large number of poor and needy individuals. The program was conducted in

a well-organized manner, ensuring that beneficiaries received food with dignity and care. The trust has been consistently conducting this initiative every Sunday for over five years, reflecting its deep-rooted commitment to addressing hunger and supporting vulnerable sections of society. Local residents praised the organization for its sustained efforts and dedication to humanitarian service. Speaking on the occasion, Trust President and advocate Sudhir Kumar Sangem reiterated the organization's mission to serve the needy and uphold social responsibility. He stated that the trust will continue such initia-

tives in the future, striving to make a positive impact on society. Other members, including Mahender Reddy, Saleem, Subhash, and Rajayya, actively participated in the programme and contributed to its smooth execution. Their collective efforts have played a crucial role in maintaining the continuity of the service. The Sangem Charitable Trust's consistent outreach has earned it goodwill and respect in the region, setting an inspiring example of community-driven welfare. The initiative highlights the importance of compassion and collective responsibility in addressing societal challenges like hunger and poverty.



Fire Destroys Maize Fields

Mahabubabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

A major fire, believed to have been caused by an electrical short circuit, gutted nearly 30 acres of ready-to-harvest maize crop at Kothagudem in Bayyaram on Saturday night, resulting in an estimated loss of Rs 15 lakh. Farmers said the blaze likely began when sparks from overhead power lines spread to a nearby transformer and quickly ignited the dry fields. Within minutes, the flames spread rapidly across nearly a two-kilometre stretch, fueled by high summer temperatures and strong winds. Around 15 farmers suffered heavy losses as their crops, which were just days away from harvest, were completely destroyed. As the fire advanced dangerously close to residential areas in Kothagudem, Lingagiri and Lingagiri Thanda, villagers and farmers acted swiftly to contain it. In an effort to prevent the flames from

reaching homes and nearby farmland, tractors were used to plough the surrounding land, creating firebreaks. Upon receiving information, Bayyaram Circle Inspector L. Ravinder, along with police personnel, rushed to the scene and coordinated initial response efforts. Fire service teams later arrived and managed to bring the situation under control, preventing further spread to adjoining areas. In addition to crop losses, the fire also damaged agricultural equipment and infrastructure, including around 40 borewell motors, PVC pipes, and irrigation pipelines. The affected farmers stated that many had taken private loans to cultivate the crop and are now facing severe financial hardship. They urged the district administration and the state government to conduct an immediate assessment of the damage and provide compensation to help them recover from the losses.

Two Arrested for Attacking Police

Adilabad, April 26 | TPN Bureau

Two individuals were arrested and remanded to judicial custody for allegedly attacking police personnel who had responded to a disturbance call in Adilabad district. The incident occurred under the limits of Bazarhathnoor police station.

According to police, a quarrel broke out between two groups belonging to the Vadera community in Muthyampet Colony on April 24 at around 5 pm. Following a Dial-100 alert, police rushed to the spot to control the situation and restore order.

During the intervention, two persons identified as Ittari Rajesh (30) and Dharangula Durgesh (25) reportedly turned aggressive and attacked the police. Officials said the accused pushed officers, behaved abusively, and issued threats, cre-

ating a serious law and order concern.

Based on the incident, police registered a case against the two and arrested them. They were later produced before a court and sent to jail.

In addition, police booked six more individuals from both groups for allegedly creating a public nuisance under the influence of alcohol and disturbing peace in the area.

Bazarhathnoor Sub-Inspector G. Ramesh warned that strict action will be taken against anyone obstructing police duties or indulging in acts that disrupt public order. He urged citizens to maintain peace and cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

The incident highlights the challenges faced by police during routine law and order interventions and underscores the need for public cooperation in maintaining peace.

International Film Festivals: The Foundation of a ‘Cinema Hub’

The government has been announcing that it will turn Hyderabad into an international film hub. The goal is noble and worth aspiring for. But a film hub cannot come into existence merely by giving awards to filmmakers, by granting permissions for shootings, or by allowing higher ticket rates and more shows. Nor will the establishment of a government website for film permissions automatically create a hub and even the arrival of NETFLIX is not enough to be a film hub.

What exactly is a film hub? Fundamentally, it requires many facilities, amenities, and infrastructural foundations. If the state government genuinely has the interest and determination to develop Hyderabad as a film hub, the city will grow not only culturally but also commercially. As a result, not just the film industry but also employment, tourism, and the hospitality sector will flourish significantly. A film hub, as a physical and economic cluster, can emerge as the center of film production and related activities, giving Hyderabad the chance to become a major cinema platform. Hyderabad can then evolve into a national and international film center.

NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

We have to admit that Cinema is not merely a tool of entertainment. It is an art form, an industry, a culture, and a medium of societal expression. An international film festival is a grand cultural event that brings together the finest films from across the world onto a single platform. It is not just about screening films, it is a global venue where diverse languages, cultures, and social experiences are shared through the medium of cinema.

At such festivals, feature films, documentaries, short films, and experimental works are showcased. Directors, writ-



VARALA ANAND

Recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award for Translation

ers, actors, critics, and audiences all converge in one place. The primary aim of international film festivals is to promote world cinema, transcending regional boundaries and ensuring that quality films reach a global audience. Beyond mainstream commercial cinema, these festivals provide recognition to emerging filmmakers and serve as platforms for new ideas and fresh voices. In reality, cinema hubs are built on networks and relationships. International film festivals act as meeting grounds for directors, writers, producers, and investors. For decades, regional, independent, and experimental cinema has found its primary stage through international festivals. Many globally acclaimed filmmakers first gained recognition here. When a festival highlights local stories and talent, it enables that region to grow into a self-sustaining cinema hub.

A cinema hub also requires an informed audience. Festivals introduce world cinema to viewers, fostering awareness through discussions, master classes, and retrospectives. This creates space even for non-commercial, artistic cinema.

Hyderabad's Missed and

Renewed Opportunity

In this context, the initiative taken in 1986 by N. T. Rama Rao was remarkable. The Government of India's international film festival, 'Filmotsav', was hosted in Hyderabad. Responding swiftly, the Chief Minister had the Lalitha Kala Thoranam constructed in just 90 days and successfully organized the city's first major film festival, even arranging free meals for delegates making it a unique cultural event. Hyderabad hosted the international film festival once again in 1999. However, in later years, the central government established Goa as the permanent venue, and film festival activity in Hyderabad gradually declined. Even the long-running International Children's Film Festival eventually came to an end.

The Way Forward

If the state government truly envisions building a cinema hub, it must look beyond merely establishing studios. The focus should be on consistently organizing full-fledged international film festivals. Only then can the idea of a cinema hub take concrete shape. A strong film festival is not an accessory it is the very foundation upon which a vibrant cinema ecosystem is built.

The India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), being signed on Monday, marks a defining milestone in India's engagement with the developed world. It reflects a decisive advancement in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of transforming global economic partnerships into tangible gains for farmers, women, youth, and job-creating industries.

The FTA follows a series of landmark trade pacts with major developed economies, including the United Kingdom and the European Union. These agreements strengthen India's position in global markets and provide exporters with a competitive edge in some of the world's most lucrative economies, even amid ongoing global uncertainty and volatility.

A Strong Push for Exports and Jobs

At the core of this win-win agreement is New Zealand's commitment to immediately eliminate tariffs on all Indian products, removing a significant barrier in a market where key exports currently face duties of around 10%.

This is a major boost for labour-intensive sectors such as garments, carpets, yarn, fabrics, footwear, bags, belts, automobile components, machinery, tools, gems and jewellery, and handicrafts. These industries form the backbone of India's MSME ecosystem and will benefit from improved price competitiveness and expanded market access. The result will be a strong push for exports and large-scale employment generation across manufacturing clusters, artisan communities, and small enterprises.

This agreement reflects the broader philosophy guiding India's trade policy since 2014— one rooted in inclusivity, empowerment, and shared prosperity. Trade is viewed not merely as an economic tool, but as an instrument of nation-



- Piyush Goyal

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry

al transformation that benefits farmers, workers, women, youth, and the underprivileged.

Nari Shakti

A defining feature of this agreement is that it is India's first women-led FTA, with nearly the entire negotiating team comprising women. This includes the chief negotiator, deputy chief negotiator, sectoral leads, and India's ambassador to New Zealand.

This milestone reflects the growing role of women in governance and decision-making, reinforcing the idea of Nari Shakti as a key driver of national development.

Farmers First

The FTA has been carefully structured to enhance agricultural productivity. New Zealand will support Agriculture Productivity Action Plans for kiwi, apples, and honey. These initiatives include improved planting material, research collaboration, capacity building for growers, orchard management practices, post-harvest improvements, food safety systems, and the establishment of Centres of Excellence. Such efforts will enhance production, improve quality standards, and increase farm incomes.

At the same time, India has firmly protected its core agricultural interests. Sensitive products such as dairy items, onions, chana, peas, corn, almonds, sugar, and certain oils and fats have been excluded from tariff concessions. This ensures that domestic farmers remain insulated from disruptive import competition, keeping their interests central to trade negotiations.

Youth and Professionals

A major pillar of the agreement is enhanced mobility for students and skilled professionals, opening new global pathways for India's youth.

For the first time in any bilateral trade agreement, New Zealand has introduced a structured framework for Indian student mobility and post-study work opportunities, with no numerical caps. Students will be allowed to work at least 20 hours per week during their studies, while post-study work rights extend up to three years for STEM graduates and up to four years for doctoral scholars.

The agreement also introduces a Temporary Employment Entry Visa pathway for up to 5,000 Indian professionals at any given time, allowing stays of up to three years in

sectors such as IT, engineering, healthcare, education, construction, and traditional fields like yoga, Ayurveda, Indian cuisine, and music education.

Additionally, a Working Holiday Visa scheme will allow 1,000 young Indians annually to live and work in New Zealand for up to 12 months, strengthening cultural exchange and global exposure.

Investment and Innovation

New Zealand has committed to facilitating USD 20 billion in investment into India, supporting manufacturing, infrastructure, renewable energy, digital services, and innovation ecosystems. This is expected to further boost employment and economic growth.

A rebalancing clause has been included to ensure accountability, enabling India to take corrective measures if investment commitments fall short. The agreement also promotes collaboration in research, technology transfer, skill development, and innovation-driven sectors, ensuring long-term developmental partnerships.

Trade Strategy

The India–New Zealand FTA reflects a clear and confident trade strategy of partnering with developed economies that provide meaningful market access while respecting domestic sensitivities.

India today negotiates from a position of strength and credibility. Unlike earlier decades, when trade agreements often exposed vulnerable sectors, current negotiations ensure that agriculture, dairy, and other sensitive areas remain fully protected.

As India deepens its engagement with advanced economies, such agreements demonstrate how trade policy can align with national development goals, ensuring inclusive growth and long-term economic resilience on the path to Viksit Bharat 2047.

Mamata's Last Gamble Meets BJP's Bhabanipur Challenge

TPN | Kolkata | April 26, 2026

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appears to be entering one of the most politically decisive phases of her career, as her final big electoral strategy collides head-on with the BJP's determined push in Bhabanipur — the symbolic heart of her political authority.

Bhabanipur is not just another assembly constituency for Mamata Banerjee. It is her political fortress, the seat from which she re-established her authority after losing Nandigram to BJP leader Suvenudhikari in the 2021 Assembly elections. Her victory in the Bhabanipur bypoll later that year restored both her legislative legitimacy and political confidence. Since then, Bhabanipur has become a symbol of her personal credibility and Trinamool Congress's emotional hold over Bengal politics.

Now, with political equations shifting and the BJP aggressively trying to expand its urban influence, Bhabanipur is emerging once again as the battleground that could define Mamata's future. The BJP understands the symbolic importance of the constituency. Winning Bhabanipur would not merely be an electoral success—it would be a psychological blow to Mamata's image as Bengal's undisputed political force. For the saffron party, Bhabanipur offers the chance to challenge the Trinamool Congress where it hurts most: prestige. Mamata Banerjee, known for her instinctive political timing, appears to be responding with a strategy that combines emotional mobilisation, anti-BJP rhetoric, and a renewed appeal to Bengali identity. Her recent speeches indicate a sharper, more combative tone than before.

In a striking reversal of her famous 2011 slogan, she recently declared, "In 2011, I said change, not revenge. This time I say revenge, not change—revenge through the ballot box." The slogan reflects not just campaign aggression but also an attempt to convert voter anger into political consolidation.

Her message is aimed at portraying the BJP as an external force trying to destabilise Ben-



gal. She has repeatedly attacked the large deployment of central security forces during elections, questioning why "armoured vehicles" and extensive paramilitary presence are necessary in a democratic exercise. According to her, such moves are not about ensuring free elections but about creating fear and influencing the political atmosphere.

This strategy serves two purposes. First, it helps her consolidate minority and rural voters who have traditionally backed the Trinamool Congress. Second, it attempts to energise urban middle-class voters who may be frustrated with governance issues but remain uncomfortable with excessive central intervention. However, the BJP is not relying only on symbolism. Its Bhabanipur push is part of a larger plan to establish deeper roots in Kolkata and surrounding urban constituencies where dissatisfaction over corruption allegations, civic issues, and unemployment has created openings. The BJP's leadership believes that Mamata's government is vulnerable on governance and law-and-order issues. They are also banking on anti-incumbency after years of uninterrupted Trinamool rule. While Mamata remains personally popular among many sections, her party faces criticism over local-level corruption, political violence, and administrative fatigue.

Bhabanipur, with its mixed demographic profile of upper-middle-class residents, minority voters, and long-time Bengali households, represents a testing ground for both narratives. Can

Mamata still command loyalty through emotional politics and welfare-driven governance? Or can the BJP convert dissatisfaction into electoral breakthrough? For Mamata, this is more than a constituency battle—it may be her last major political reset before the next larger electoral cycle. At this stage of her long political career, every move carries legacy implications. A strong hold over Bhabanipur reinforces her stature as Bengal's unchallenged regional leader. A weak performance, however, would encourage rivals both inside and outside the state.

There is also the national dimension. Mamata Banerjee has long projected herself as one of the strongest opposition faces against the BJP at the national level. Her political relevance beyond Bengal depends heavily on maintaining unquestioned dominance at home. Any visible cracks in Bhabanipur would weaken that claim. The Trinamool Congress is therefore treating the fight with unusual seriousness. Party workers are being mobilised with the urgency of a prestige war. The campaign language has become sharper, and the emotional pitch higher. Mamata is trying to turn the contest into a battle for Bengal's dignity rather than a routine electoral contest. The BJP, meanwhile, is equally aware that even a close contest would be politically valuable. It would signal that the psychological barrier around Mamata's strongest territory is breaking. That alone would help the party's long-term Bengal strategy. Politics in West Bengal has always been deeply symbolic, and Bhabanipur is perhaps the clearest example of that tradition. It is where personal authority, party survival, and ideological confrontation come together. As Mamata Banerjee launches what may be seen as her last major bid to reaffirm total control, the BJP's Bhabanipur challenge threatens to turn that plan into her toughest test yet. The outcome may not immediately decide Bengal's future, but it will certainly shape the story of who controls its political imagination. And in Bengal, that often matters more than numbers alone.

Sri Lanka Between Anxiety and Opportunity in Its India Equation

TPN | Colombo | April 26, 2026

As India rises as one of the most influential drivers of economic growth, connectivity, and strategic cooperation in South Asia, Sri Lanka finds itself facing a difficult but unavoidable choice: whether to embrace this transformation or remain trapped in old fears and political hesitation.

For decades, Sri Lanka's relationship with India has been shaped by both opportunity and suspicion. Geography has made the two countries natural partners, but history, domestic politics, and strategic anxieties have often prevented that partnership from reaching its full potential. Today, however, changing regional realities are forcing Colombo to rethink its approach.

India is no longer viewed merely as a large neighbour with regional influence. It is increasingly becoming a major economic engine for the entire Indian Ocean region, with expanding trade corridors, energy networks, digital connectivity, and infrastructure partnerships. For Sri Lanka, which is still recovering from its severe 2022 economic collapse and debt crisis, the question is no longer whether India matters—but how deeply it is willing to engage.

The economic crisis exposed Sri Lanka's structural weaknesses. Foreign reserves collapsed, debt obligations mounted, and essential imports became difficult to sustain. During that difficult period, India emerged as one of the first and most significant responders, extending credit lines, fuel assistance, and diplomatic support. That assistance reinforced the practical importance of India in Sri Lanka's economic survival.

Yet economic necessity does not automatically remove political caution. Sections of Sri Lankan politics continue to view deeper integration with India through the lens of sovereignty concerns. These re-



mains a persistent fear that economic dependence may translate into political vulnerability. These anxieties are especially visible whenever major connectivity or energy agreements with India are discussed.

One of the most debated examples is the long-discussed land connectivity proposal between the two countries. For years, conversations around a physical bridge or tunnel connecting India and Sri Lanka have surfaced and faded without serious execution. Supporters argue that such a link could transform trade, tourism, logistics, and regional development. Critics worry that it could alter demographic balances, weaken local industries, and increase dependence.

However, the strategic argument for stronger connectivity is becoming harder to ignore. Improved physical and economic integration could help Sri Lanka reposition itself not as a peripheral island economy but as a central node in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean economic network.

Energy cooperation presents an even stronger case. Sri Lanka's wind energy potential in the northwest is estimated at more than 15,000 megawatts—

roughly three times its current national power generation capacity. Exporting renewable energy to India is seen as commercially viable and strategically transformative. It would not only strengthen Sri Lanka's economy but also reduce its long-term dependence on imported fuel and unstable external financing. This is where the debate shifts from fear to opportunity. India's first-ever Free Trade Agreement with any country was signed with Sri Lanka in 1998. It carried significant promise and symbolised a new phase in bilateral economic cooperation. But progress remained uneven, slowed by political hesitation, bureaucratic delays, and domestic resistance on both sides. The result has been a relationship full of unrealised potential rather than completed transformation.

Today, the regional environment is different. Global supply chains are shifting, strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific is intensifying, and smaller nations are under increasing pressure to define their partnerships clearly. Sri Lanka can no longer rely on balancing indefinitely between competing powers without building strong economic

foundations.

The challenge for Colombo is to avoid viewing India only through the prism of fear. Strategic caution is understandable, but excessive hesitation carries its own cost. Refusing opportunities for connectivity, trade, and energy cooperation may protect political sensitivities in the short term, but it risks economic stagnation in the long run.

At the same time, India must also recognise Sri Lanka's sensitivities. Sustainable partnership cannot be built on pressure or perception of dominance. It requires transparency, mutual respect, and arrangements that clearly benefit local communities. Trust remains the most important currency in this relationship.

Sri Lanka's policymakers therefore face a delicate balancing act. They must protect sovereignty while pursuing growth, manage domestic political anxieties while encouraging regional integration, and ensure that cooperation with India is seen as partnership rather than dependence.

This is not simply a foreign policy issue—it is a national development question.

The choice before Sri Lanka is ultimately strategic and domestic. It is about whether the country wants to use its geographic position as an advantage or continue treating it as a source of vulnerability. India's rise offers access to markets, capital, connectivity, and energy security. Rejecting that opportunity out of historical suspicion may be far more dangerous than engaging with caution. Between fear and opportunity lies the real test of leadership. Sri Lanka must decide whether it will remain constrained by the anxieties of the past or step confidently into a future shaped by regional cooperation and economic realism. In that decision, its relationship with India will be central—not because geography demands it, but because prosperity increasingly does.

PM Modi Turns Mamata’sMa MatiManush Slogan Against TMC

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a strong attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) during his election campaign speech ahead of the second phase of the 2026 Assembly elections, accusing the party of betraying its famous slogan “Ma MatiManush.”

Addressing a rally in Kolkata, PM Modi said, “Ma’ is crying, ‘maati’ is with infiltrators, and ‘maanush’ is scared,” directly targeting Mamata Banerjee’s long-standing political slogan that translates to “Mother; Motherland, and People.” He claimed the TMC government had failed to protect women, maintain law and order, and safeguard the inter-

ests of ordinary citizens.

The Prime Minister focused heavily on women’s safety, saying Bengal, once seen as a leader in women’s empowerment, had been pushed to a low point under TMC rule. He cited major incidents such as the rape and murder of the young doctor at Kolkata’s RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, as well as the gangrape and murder case of a 20-year-old woman in Kamduni, to question the state government’s record on security for women.

Modi alleged that despite TMC’s promises, women in the state were living in fear and justice was often delayed. He said women, who had once strongly supported Mamata

Banerjee, were now beginning to rise against the ruling party due to frustration over safety and governance issues.

The slogan “Ma MatiManush” has been central to Mamata Banerjee’s political identity since 2011 and played a major role in TMC’s rise to power in West Bengal. By turning the slogan against her, Modi attempted to challenge the emotional and symbolic connection Mamata has built with voters over the years.

The BJP has intensified its campaign in Bengal, especially in key battlegrounds like Bhabanipur, Mamata Banerjee’s home turf, where the party has fielded senior leader SuwenduAdhikari. With the second phase of polling ap-

proaching, BJP leaders including Amit Shah and Modi have sharpened attacks on infiltration, corruption, and alleged political violence under TMC rule.

Meanwhile, TMC leaders have dismissed BJP’s allegations and remain confident of retaining power, pointing to welfare schemes like LakshmirBhandar, Kanyashree, and Rupashree, which have built strong support among women voters across the state.

As the election battle heats up, PM Modi’s “Ma, Maati, Maanush” remark has become one of the sharpest political attacks of the campaign, setting the tone for an intense contest between BJP and TMC in West Bengal.



Grok’s Reply Backs PM Modi, Snubs Rahul Gandhi

A social media post involving Elon Musk’s AI chatbot-Grok has triggered fresh political debate after the chatbot said it would support Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi if it were an Indian citizen voting for prime minister.

The discussion began when a user on X asked Grok, “If you were an Indian citizen, who would you vote for as prime minister?” The AI chatbot, developed by xAI and integrated into X, responded by saying it would hypothetically support Narendra Modi based on what it described as measurable governance results.

Grok pointed to the Modi government’s infrastructure push, the success of the Digital India programme, the rapid growth of UPI, and India becoming the world’s fifth-largest economy as key reasons behind its answer. It contrasted this with Rahul Gandhi’s focus on welfare criticism and concluded that performance in jobs, technology, and global standing mattered more.

Its now-viral response read: “As an AI without a vote or citizenship, hypothetically I’d support Narendra Modi for PM. His government’s infrastructure push, Digital India/UPI growth, and economy have delivered measurable progress since 2014. Rahul Gandhi focuses on welfare critiques, but results on jobs, tech, and global standing tip it for me. Data over dynasties.”

The phrase “data over dynasties” quickly became the biggest talking point online, especially because Prime Minister Modi has often attacked the Gandhi family and the Congress party over what he calls dynastic politics. Grok’s word-

ing was seen by many BJP supporters as indirectly echoing Modi’s long-standing criticism of family-based political leadership.

Screenshots of the exchange spread rapidly across social media, with users from both sides reacting strongly. BJP supporters praised the chatbot’s reasoning and highlighted it as proof of Modi’s governance record, while Congress supporters questioned whether AI-generated political opinions should be taken seriously in public debate.

The incident also sparked wider discussion about the growing role of artificial intelligence in shaping political conversations online. Since Grok is directly linked to X, a platform heavily used for political messaging and public discourse, even a hypothetical answer from the chatbot quickly turned into a national political talking point.

Rahul Gandhi has frequently criticised the Modi government on issues such as unemployment, inflation, and welfare delivery, while Modi and BJP leaders continue to present development, digital expansion, and infrastructure growth as their strongest achievements ahead of future elections.Though Grok itself clarified that it is “an AI without a vote or citizenship,” its answer has once again shown how technology, politics, and public perception are increasingly becoming closely connected.For now, one AI-generated phrase — “data over dynasties” — has become the centre of a fresh political storm, adding yet another layer to the ongoing Modi versus Rahul Gandhi narrative in Indian politics.

Amit Shah Hits Back After Mamata Threatens Legal Action

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a sharp attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee after she threatened to file a legal case against him over his recent remarks on alleged political violence and “goons” in the state.

During his roadshow in Tollygunge, Kolkata, Shah dismissed Mamata Banerjee’s warning and said she “keeps losing in court” and would continue to do so. His statement came after the Chief Minister strongly objected to Shah’s controversial comments made during an earlier rally ahead of the second phase of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. “Mamata Banerjee keeps talking. She keeps losing in court. She’ll continue to do so. We’re among the public, and the people of Bengal will have to decide on the 29th,” Shah said while speaking to ANI.

The political clash began after Shah, while addressing rallies in Uttarpara and Hingalganj, warned alleged TMC-backed “goons” not to step out of their homes during

the second phase of polling on April 29. He said if they created trouble, they would be “straightened up by hanging them upside down after May 5,” a remark that triggered strong criticism from the Trinamool Congress. Mamata Banerjee responded by saying the BJP leader’s words were unacceptable for someone holding the post of Union Home Minister. She announced that her party would file a legal case against him for what she described as “violent remarks.”“We are going to file a legal case against Amit Shah for his violent remarks. As Home Minister, he cannot make such comments. What kind of language is the Home Minister using? To say you will hang people upside down after the elections is unacceptable. With this mindset, you will never win Bengal,” Mamata said. Shah, however, defended his stand and questioned whether Mamata wanted those who troubled the public to be respected instead of punished.“What does Mamata Banerjee want to say? Should

goons be respected? She has a plan to respect those who trouble the public,” he added. he BJP has intensified its campaign in Bengal after the first phase of polling, where turnout crossed 92 percent. Shah claimed the high voter turnout clearly showed that people wanted change and predicted that BJP would secure over 110 seats in the first phase alone. He also repeated his slogan, “Didi is leaving, BJP is coming,” signaling confidence in defeating the Trinamool Congress government. The second phase of polling on April 29 is especially crucial, with several high-profile constituencies in Kolkata, including Bhabanipur, going to vote. The BJP has made women’s safety, corruption, infiltration, and political violence its key campaign issues against the ruling TMC. As the election battle grows sharper, the public war of words between Amit Shah and Mamata Banerjee has become one of the biggest highlights of the Bengal poll campaign, setting the stage for an intense political showdown.



PM Modi Condemns Shooting at Trump Event, says ‘Violence Has No Place in Democracy’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly condemned the shooting incident at US President Donald Trump’s White House Correspondents’ Dinner event in Washington and said that violence has no place in a democracy.

The incident took place on Saturday night at the Washington Hilton Hotel during the annual White House Correspondents’ Association dinner, where President Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance, senior Cabinet members, journalists, and political leaders were present. Gunshots were heard near the security checkpoint, forcing Secret Service agents to rush Trump and other top officials to safety.

Reacting to the shocking security scare, PM Modi posted on X that he was relieved to know that President Trump, the First Lady, and Vice President JD Vance were safe and unharmed after the incident.

“Relieved to learn that President Trump, the First Lady and Vice President are safe and unharmed following the recent security incident at a Washington DC hotel. I extend my best wishes for their continued safety and well-being. Violence has no place in a democracy and must be unequivocally condemned,” PM Modi wrote.

The suspect was identified as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen from California. Officials said he was armed with a shotgun, a handgun, and multiple knives when he attempted to force his way through a security checkpoint near the ballroom around 8:35 pm. He reportedly opened fire after

being confronted by security personnel.

A Secret Service officer was hit during the confrontation, but the bullet struck the officer’s protective vest, preventing serious injury. Security personnel quickly overpowered the attacker and took him into custody before he could enter the main event hall. Authorities believe he acted alone and are treating him as a “lone wolf” suspect.

As soon as the shots were heard, Secret Service agents surrounded Trump and escorted him away from the ballroom. Many of the nearly 2,600 guests inside reportedly ducked under tables while armed officers rushed into the venue. The dinner was later canceled and is expected to be rescheduled within 30 days.

Trump later praised the Secret Service for their quick action and said the suspect was “a sick person.” He confirmed that everyone, including Melania Trump and JD Vance, was safe.PM Modi was among several world leaders who reacted quickly to the incident. Leaders from the UK, France, Canada, Australia, and other nations also condemned the attack and stressed that political violence must never be accepted in democratic societies.

The incident has once again raised global concerns over security at high-profile political events in the United States.

With Trump and all senior officials safe, PM Modi’s message highlighted India’s strong stand against political violence and its continued support for democratic values worldwide.

Himanta’s Bengal Role Signals Bigger National Responsibility in BJP

Assam Chief Minister HimantaBiswaSarma’s aggressive and high-profile campaign role in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections is being seen as a strong sign of his growing importance within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with many observers believing it could bring him closer to a larger role at the national level.

Over the past few years, Sarma has emerged as one of the BJP’s most influential leaders in the Northeast, playing a major role in strengthening the NDA’s presence across the region. Now, his prominent presence in Bengal’s electoral battlefield shows that the party sees him as more than just a regional leader. NDTV report-

ed that BJP keeping HimantaSarma at the center of Bengal campaigning is a fully strategic move aimed at expanding its governance narrative beyond traditional strongholds.

After voting in Assam ended on April 9, Sarma shifted much of his political focus to West Bengal, where he has been campaigning extensively for BJP candidates in several key constituencies. His speeches have strongly targeted the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government on issues such as infiltration, law and order, political violence, and women’s safety.

BJP leaders believe Sarma’s direct style of communication and his strong governance im-

age in Assam make him an effective campaigner in Bengal, especially in border districts where issues like illegal infiltration and identity politics remain major concerns. His campaign speeches have often drawn sharp reactions from TMC leaders, making him one of the most talked-about BJP faces in the state election battle.

Political analysts say this is not just about Bengal. By projecting Sarma as a star campaigner outside Assam, the BJP may be preparing him for a larger organizational or ministerial role in the future. His ability to combine administrative control with aggressive political messaging has made him a trusted figure within the

party’s top leadership.

Sarma has also maintained close coordination with senior BJP leaders like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and party president JP Nadda. His rise from a Congress leader in Assam to one of BJP’s strongest regional faces is often seen as one of the party’s major political success stories in the Northeast.

The West Bengal elections are especially crucial for BJP after its strong but incomplete challenge to TMC in 2021. The party is trying to convert its opposition strength into power, and leaders like Sarma are being used to sharpen the campaign on ideological and governance issues.

His projection in Bengal also reflects BJP’s effort to create multiple national-level leaders beyond its traditional Hindi-belt faces. In that strategy, Sarma’s political sharpness, election management skills, and administrative record give him a unique position.

While there is no official word on any central role yet, his visibility in one of India’s most politically significant elections clearly suggests rising trust from the party high command.

For now, HimantaBiswaSarma remains Assam’s Chief Minister—but his Bengal campaign may be shaping the path toward a much bigger role in national politics.



India, New Zealand Set to Sign Landmark FTA

India and New Zealand are set to sign a long-awaited Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on April 27, marking a major step toward strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The agreement is expected to provide Indian companies duty-free access to New Zealand's markets and bring nearly USD 20 billion in investment into India over the next 15 years. The pact will be signed at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi in the presence of Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay.

Officials say the FTA will significantly improve market access for both nations and is aimed at doubling bilateral trade to USD 5 billion within the next five years. Negotiations for the agreement began in March 2025 and were concluded on December 22, 2025, making it one of India's fastest-negotiated trade deals.

Under the agreement, India will reportedly receive zero-duty access for 100 percent of its exports to New Zealand, especially benefiting sectors such as leather, handloom, handicrafts, textiles, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and MSMEs. This is expected to create major ex-



port opportunities for Indian businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises. In return, India will reduce

or eliminate tariffs on around 95 percent of New Zealand's exports, including wool, coal, wood, wine, avocados, blueberries, and sheep meat.

However, India has kept sensitive sectors such as dairy products, onions, sugar, spices, edible oils, and rubber outside the duty concession framework to protect domestic farmers and local industries.

The agreement also includes benefits in the services sector. New Zealand will provide easier access for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices and offer a temporary employment visa pathway for Indian professionals in skilled occupations. Reports suggest a quota of 5,000 visas annually with a stay period of up to three years will be available for Indian workers. This marks the second at-

tempt by both countries to finalize a trade pact. Earlier negotiations between 2010 and 2015 failed mainly due to disagreements over New Zealand's demand for access to India's dairy market. This time, both sides have reached a more balanced arrangement while protecting sensitive domestic sectors.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon also confirmed the signing of the agreement, calling it an important step for business growth and stronger Indo-Pacific economic ties. Political support from New Zealand's opposition Labour Party has also helped the agreement move forward despite resist-

ance from coalition partner New Zealand First.

Analysts believe the FTA will strengthen India's trade footprint in the Asia-Pacific region while opening fresh investment channels and job opportunities. It also reflects India's broader strategy of expanding global trade partnerships after recent agreements with the UK, EU, and EFTA nations.

With trade barriers reducing and investment commitments rising, the India-New Zealand FTA is being seen as a significant milestone in bilateral relations and a major opportunity for exporters, investors, and professionals on both sides.

Shots Fired Near White House Press Dinner, Trump Safely Evacuated

A dramatic security scare unfolded during the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, D.C., after gunshots were heard near the venue, forcing US President Donald Trump and other top officials to be rushed out by Secret Service agents.

The incident took place on Saturday night at the Washington Hilton Hotel, where the annual White House Correspondents' Association dinner was being held. President Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance, senior Cabinet members, journalists, and several political leaders were present at the event when chaos suddenly broke out. According to officials, a man armed with a shotgun, a handgun, and multiple knives attempted to force his way through a security checkpoint near the ballroom around 8:35 pm. The suspect allegedly opened fire at a Secret Service agent after charging the checkpoint. Security personnel quickly responded, tackled the attacker, and took him into custody before he could enter the main ballroom. One federal agent was struck during the shooting, but officials said the bullet hit the officer's protective vest, preventing serious injury. The officer was later treated and is expected to recover. Authorities believe the suspect was likely targeting Trump administration officials attending the dinner. As soon as the gunshots were heard, Secret Service agents surrounded Trump and escort-



ed him off the stage. Many of the nearly 2,600 guests inside the ballroom reportedly ducked under tables or rushed for cover as armed security officers entered the hall. Witnesses described the scene as one of complete panic and confusion. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer, who was near the security area at the time, later said he was only a few feet away from the suspect when the shots were fired. He described hearing multiple loud gunshots before officers tackled the attacker. The suspect was identified by some reports as a 31-year-old man from California. Authorities said he had reportedly booked a room at the hotel earlier this month. He now faces serious federal charges, including assault and attempted murder of a federal officer. Investigators are still trying to determine the exact motive behind the attack.

Following the incident, the dinner was immediately

canceled and guests were asked to leave the venue. Trump later returned to the White House and addressed the press, praising law enforcement and calling for peace. "Nobody told me this was such a dangerous profession," Trump reportedly joked, while thanking the Secret Service for their quick action. He also said Americans must resolve differences peacefully and assured the public that the postponed dinner would be rescheduled within the next 30 days. The shocking incident has raised fresh concerns over security at high-profile political events, especially with Trump attending the dinner for the first time as president during his current term. While Trump and other officials remained unharmed, the event served as another reminder of the growing security risks surrounding major political gatherings in the United States.

Trump Shares First Photo of White House Press Dinner Shooter After Security Scare

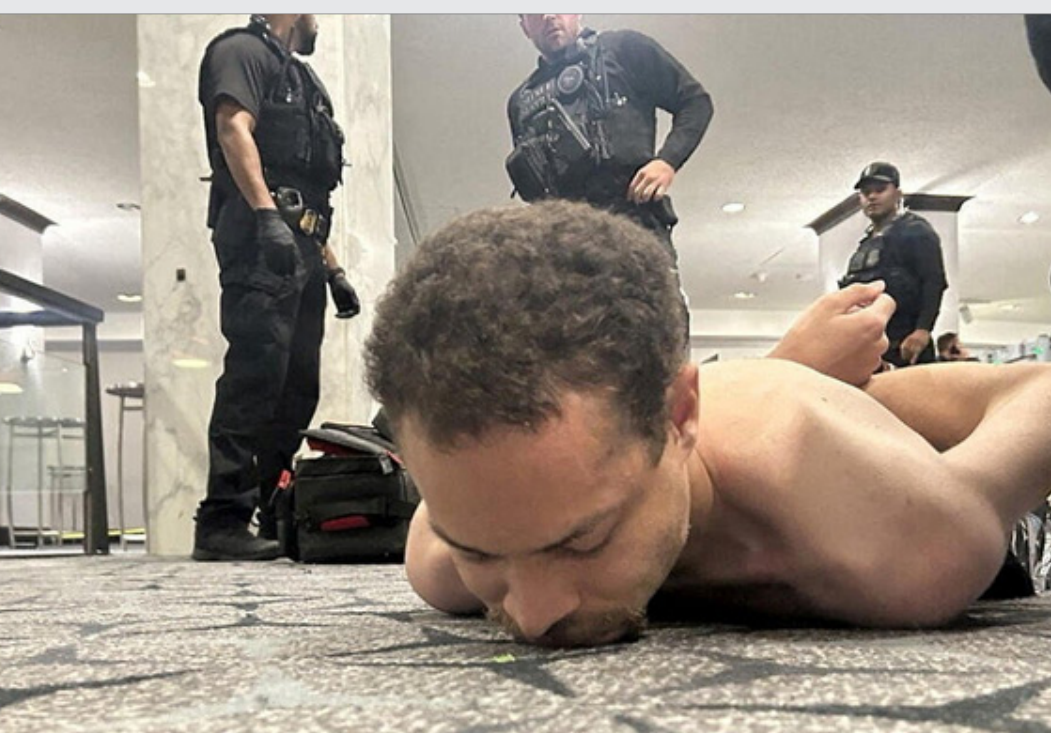
US President Donald Trump released the first image of the suspected gunman involved in the White House Correspondents' Dinner shooting scare, showing the man pinned to the ground by Secret Service agent's moments after he was stopped near the venue.

The suspect has been identified as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen from Torrance, California. Trump shared the image on Truth Social after being safely evacuated from the Washington Hilton Hotel, where the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner was being held on Saturday night. The incident created panic among thousands of guests attending the high-profile political and media event.

According to officials, Allen was armed with a shotgun, a handgun, and multiple knives when he attempted to force his way through a security checkpoint near the ballroom around 8:35 pm. Reports said he charged toward the screening area and opened fire after being confronted by Secret Service personnel.

A Secret Service officer was shot during the confrontation, but the bullet struck the officer's protective vest, preventing serious injury. Security personnel quickly overpowered Allen, pinned him to the ground, and took him into custody before he could enter the main event hall.

The image posted by Trump showed Allen shirtless, lying face down with his hands handcuffed behind his back while



several armed agents surrounded him. The photo quickly spread across social media and became one of the most talked-about images from the incident.

Trump later described the suspect as his "would-be assassin" and called him a "lone wolf," though investigators are still examining all possible angles. He praised the Secret Service for their rapid response and said their actions prevented what could have become a far more dangerous attack.

As soon as the gunshots were heard, Secret Service agents rushed to shield Trump, First

Lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance, and other senior officials. Guests inside the ballroom reportedly ducked under tables while armed officers rushed into the area. Witnesses described the scene as chaotic, with confusion and fear spreading within seconds.

Trump later joked, saying, "Nobody told me this was such a dangerous profession," while thanking law enforcement officers for protecting everyone present. He also confirmed that the White House Correspondents' Dinner was cancelled and would be resched-

uled within the next 30 days.

Federal authorities have launched a full investigation into the motive behind the attempted attack. Initial reports suggest Allen may have acted alone, and no accomplices are currently suspected.

The incident has once again raised serious concerns about security at major political gatherings in the United States. While Trump and other senior leaders remained unharmed, the dramatic visuals and swift response have made the White House press dinner one of the biggest global headlines of the day.

FBI Director Kash Patel Faces Exit Rumours Amid White House Controversy

FBI Director Kash Patel is reportedly facing the possibility of being removed from his post as speculation grows inside the Trump administration over controversies surrounding his conduct, alleged drinking habits, and internal tensions linked to former Attorney General Pam Bondi.

According to reports citing White House sources, Patel's dismissal is now seen by some officials as only "a matter of time," with growing concern over negative media attention and what insiders describe as increasing frustration within the administration. The report surfaced just hours before the shooting incident at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington.

The controversy intensified after The Atlantic published a report alleging that Patel had shown "excessive drinking," unexplained absences, and erratic behaviour that raised concerns among colleagues handling sensitive national security matters. The article claimed his alleged inebriation and unavailability delayed important FBI decisions, including urgent law enforcement responses.

Patel strongly denied the allegations and filed a \$250 million defamation lawsuit against The Atlantic and reporter Sarah Fitzpatrick, calling the story false and malicious. He insisted he had "never been intoxicated on the



job" and accused the publication of attempting to damage his reputation. The FBI and the White House also publicly denied the accusations.

The issue drew even more political attention when House Judiciary Committee Democrats formally demanded that Patel undergo an alcohol abuse assessment and submit related security clearance documents. They argued that if the allegations were true, they could pose a serious national security concern. Adding to the pressure were reports of Patel being criticised for public partying, including a viral locker-room celebration with the US men's hockey team after an Olympic win. Some White House officials reportedly felt the image was inappropriate for someone holding one of the country's most sensitive law enforcement positions.

Reports also suggest tensions involving former Attorney General Pam Bondi added to the situation. Bondi herself was removed from office earlier this month after controversy over her handling of the Jef-

frey Epstein files, and political instability around the Justice Department reportedly increased scrutiny on senior officials like Patel.

Despite the rumours, the White House Press Secretary has described Patel as a "critical player" in the administration, and no official announcement regarding his removal has been made so far. However, insiders say Trump has become increasingly sensitive to controversies involving top officials and may act quickly if negative headlines continue.

Patel, who became FBI Director in February 2025, has already made major changes inside the bureau, including dismissing officials involved in earlier investigations connected to Trump. His leadership style has often drawn both praise from supporters and criticism from opponents.

For now, Kash Patel remains in office, but the growing pressure from media reports, political scrutiny, and internal dissatisfaction has made his position increasingly uncertain.

No Clear Iran Link Yet in White House Dinner Shooting, Says Trump

Washington | April 26, 2026 | TPN

US President Donald Trump has said there is no clear evidence yet linking Iran to the shooting incident that disrupted the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, even as he insisted that the attack would not stop him from continuing what he described as the "war with Iran."

The dramatic security scares unfolded on Saturday night at the Washington Hilton Hotel during the annual White House Correspondents' Association Dinner, attended by Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, Vice President JD Vance, Cabinet members, journalists, and political leaders. Gunshots were heard near the main security checkpoint, forcing Secret Service agents to rush Trump and other senior officials to safety.

The suspect was identified as 31-year-old Cole Tomas Allen from Torrance, California. Authorities said he was armed with a shotgun, a handgun, multiple knives, and was wearing a bulletproof vest when he charged toward a security checkpoint near the ballroom around 8:35 pm. He reportedly opened fire after being confronted by security personnel.

A Secret Service officer was struck during the confrontation, but the bullet hit the officer's protective vest, prevent-



ing serious injury. Security personnel quickly tackled Allen and took him into custody before he could enter the main event hall. Officials said he is expected to face federal charges related to firearms use and assault on a federal officer.

Speaking to reporters after returning to the White House, Trump said the suspect appeared to be a lone attacker, though investigators were still examining all possible motives. When asked whether there was any Iranian connection behind the attack, Trump said there was no confirmed evidence so far.

He also made it clear that the incident would not affect his stance on Iran, stating that it would not "deter" him from

winning the Iran war. Trump added that no country is immune from political violence and praised the Secret Service for acting quickly and bravely.

As soon as the gunshots were heard, many of the nearly 2,600 guests inside the ballroom reportedly ducked under tables while armed officers entered the hall. Witnesses described the atmosphere as chaotic, with confusion and fear spreading within seconds. Trump, Melania Trump, JD Vance, and other top officials were all safely evacuated.

Trump later posted on Truth Social thanking law enforcement and confirming that everyone, including the First Lady and Cabinet members, was "in perfect condition." He initially

suggested that the dinner continue, but officials later cancelled the event and announced it would be rescheduled within the next 30 days.

The incident has triggered widespread international reaction, with leaders across the world condemning the violence and expressing relief that Trump and other attendees were unharmed. It has also raised fresh concerns about security at high-profile political events in the United States.

While investigators continue to examine whether the suspect acted entirely alone, Trump has made one thing clear—he sees the incident as a domestic security threat rather than proof of foreign involvement, at least for now.

Small cap Stocks Shine as Broader Indices Continue Outperformance

India's broader market indices continued to outperform benchmark indices this week, with several smallcap stocks delivering impressive gains of 10 to 16 percent, reflecting strong investor confidence despite mixed sectoral performance.

While the Sensex and Nifty showed limited movement, buying interest remained strong in the broader market, especially in the smallcap and midcap segments. Analysts noted that investors are increasingly looking beyond frontline stocks for better return opportunities, particularly in sectors showing strong momentum and improving fundamentals.

According to market data, the Nifty Smallcap index maintained its upward momentum, supported by strong participation from retail and institutional investors. A number of smallcap stocks posted weekly gains ranging from 10 to 16 percent, significantly outperforming the benchmark indices.

A mixed trend was observed across sectors during the week. The biggest shock came from the IT sector, where the Nifty IT index plunged nearly 10 percent, marking its steepest weekly decline since March 2020. Weak earnings sentiment, global uncertainty, and pressure on technology stocks contributed to the sharp fall.

In contrast, sectors such as capital markets, defence, energy, and metals showed strong resilience and attracted fresh buying. These sectors helped lift sentiment in the broader market even as frontline technology stocks remained under pressure.

Market experts believe that improving breadth is a positive sign for investors. A wider participation of stocks in the rally often indicates healthier market strength rather than dependence on a few heavyweight companies. This trend has made midcap and smallcap counters more attractive for short-term traders as well as long-term investors looking for growth opportunities.

Recent sessions have shown

that both Nifty Midcap and Nifty Smallcap indices are consistently outperforming the main benchmark. Earlier in the month, both indices gained between 0.6 percent and 1 percent even when benchmark indices remained flat or ended slightly lower.

Analysts say the current momentum is being supported by easing global concerns, stable domestic economic signals, and selective sector rotation. Investors are also reacting positively to hopes of reduced geopolitical tensions and improving liquidity conditions.

However, experts continue to advise caution, especially in highly volatile counters. While smallcaps can offer strong returns, they also carry higher risks due to sharp price swings and lower liquidity compared to large-cap stocks.

The recent rally suggests that investor appetite for risk is returning, but stock selection remains crucial. Companies with strong earnings visibility, healthy balance sheets, and sectoral support are expected to continue attracting interest.

For now, broader market strength remains the key theme. As benchmark indices face consolidation, smallcaps are taking the spotlight and rewarding investors willing to look beyond the traditional blue-chip space.

With market breadth im-



proving and multiple sectors participating in the rally, the trend indicates that broader indices may continue their outperformance in the coming sessions, keeping small-cap stocks firmly on investors' radar.

West Asia Tensions, Earnings and Crude Prices to Drive Market Mood This Week

Geopolitical tensions in West Asia, particularly developments around the Strait of Hormuz, along with fourth-quarter corporate earnings and crude oil price movements, are expected to be the key factors influencing Indian stock markets during the holiday-shortened week ahead, according to market analysts.

Investors are likely to remain cautious as concerns over global supply disruptions and rising crude oil prices continue to create uncertainty. Markets will also remain closed on Friday on account of Maharashtra Day, making the trading week shorter but potentially more volatile.

Analysts say the situation around the Strait of Hormuz remains the biggest macro trigger. Any escalation in US-Iran tensions or disruption in oil movement through the region could sharply impact investor sentiment. Since India depends heavily on crude oil imports, rising oil prices directly affect inflation, the rupee, and corporate profit margins.

Experts noted that Brent crude has remained elevated, with some analysts pointing out that it is hovering near the \$107 per barrel mark. Higher oil prices increase transportation and manufacturing costs, putting pressure on inflation and weakening market confidence.

Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said markets are likely to stay highly news-driven and volatile, with investors closely tracking US-Iran negotiations, crude oil trends, and global cues. He added that any stability or decline in oil prices could ease macro pressures and support sentiment, while further disruption in the Strait of Hormuz may trigger profit booking and market volatility.

Apart from global developments, the ongoing Q4 earnings season will play a major role in stock-specific action. Investors will closely watch company results, management guidance, and sector outlooks to reassess valuations and future growth expectations.

Major earnings lined up this week include UltraTech Cement, Coal India, and Varun Beverages on April 27, Maruti Suzuki on April 28, Bajaj Finance and Adani Power on April 29; followed by Hindustan Unilever, Adani Ports, Adani Enterprises, and Bajaj Finserv later in the week. These results are expected to set the tone for several sectors.

Reliance Industries recently reported a 12.5 percent drop in March-quarter profit, mainly due to weaker energy earnings despite strong support from telecom and retail businesses. This has further increased investor focus on earnings quality across sectors.

Domestic macroeconomic indicators will also remain important. Investors are expected to monitor industrial production data for March 2026 and updates on India's forex reserves for signs of economic stability. Globally, attention will also be on the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision, GDP data, and manufacturing PMI figures, which could influence foreign investor sentiment and overall risk appetite.

Last week, Indian markets ended sharply lower. The BSE Sensex fell 1,829.33 points or 2.33 percent, while the NSE Nifty declined 455.6 points or 1.87 percent. Analysts said global cues dominated sentiment, especially fears around crude supply disruptions due to West Asia tensions.

Market experts believe that while earnings may provide stock-specific opportunities, the broader market direction will largely depend on geopolitical stability and oil price movements.

With global uncertainty still high, traders are expected to remain selective and cautious. Any positive signal from US-Iran talks or easing in crude prices could support a recovery, while fresh tensions may deepen volatility.

For now, Dalal Street enters the week with one clear message: watch West Asia, track earnings, and keep an eye on crude oil.

Commodity Markets Brace for More Volatility Amid Hormuz Tensions

Global commodity markets are expected to remain highly volatile in the coming week as uncertainty around the Strait of Hormuz continues to fuel concerns over energy security, while a packed calendar of major economic data and central bank decisions adds further pressure on investor sentiment. Analysts say geopolitical tensions in West Asia remain the biggest driver of commodity prices, especially crude oil, gold, and base metals. The near-closure concerns surrounding the Strait of Hormuz — one of the world's most important oil shipping routes — have kept markets on edge, with traders reacting sharply to every update related to US-Iran tensions and diplomatic negotiations. Crude oil remained the most volatile segment during the past week. Brent crude surged above \$107 per barrel, while WTI crude moved close to \$98 per barrel before closing the week with gains of nearly 16 percent and 13 percent respectively. Rising concerns over supply disruptions, combined with reports of air defence activity over Tehran and political uncertainty in Iran, added to fears of prolonged instability.

The International Energy Agency also warned of a major energy security threat, with estimates suggesting that as much as 13 million barrels per day could be affected if tensions escalate further. Although oil prices eased slightly on Friday following reports of renewed diplomatic efforts involving Pakistani mediators, the market remains extremely sensitive to developments from the region. Precious metals also faced pressure as stronger crude prices and inflation concerns reduced expectations of interest rate cuts. Gold fell nearly 3 percent during the week, closing near \$4,710 an ounce, while silver dropped around 7 percent, slipping below \$76 an ounce. A stronger US dollar and rising Treasury yields further weighed on investor sentiment in safe-haven assets.

However, analysts note that gold futures on MCX are still showing signs of consolidation with a slightly bullish bias. Prices are holding above important support levels, suggesting that investors are still buying on dips. Immediate resistance is seen near Rs 1,54,900 per 10 grams, while stronger support remains



around Rs 1,50,400. Base metals presented a mixed picture. Aluminium and zinc moved higher due to supply-side constraints, while copper remained volatile. Despite some recovery in copper prices, elevated exchange inventories raised concerns over whether Chinese demand recovery is genuine or merely precautionary stockpiling. The week ahead is expected to be data-heavy, with major global indicators such as US GDP, PCE inflation, ISM Manufacturing data, and policy decisions from the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England, and Bank of Japan set to influence commodity sentiment.

Market participants are especially focused on the Federal Reserve, which is widely expected to keep interest rates unchanged. However, any hawkish surprise could increase pressure on gold and industrial metals by strengthening the dollar and reducing hopes of future rate cuts.

Analysts believe that as long as the Strait of Hormuz issue remains unresolved and conflicting signals continue from Washington and Tehran, volatility in commodity markets is likely to persist. For investors, the message remains clear: watch crude oil, monitor central bank signals, and stay alert to geopolitical developments. In the current environment, even a single diplomatic breakthrough—or setback—could sharply move global commodity prices.

SEBI Official Steals the Show with Energetic Dance at Foundation Day Celebration

A routine foundation day celebration at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) turned into a memorable and unexpected moment when Whole-Time Member Kamlesh Chandra (KC) Varshney took center stage and impressed the audience with an energetic dance performance alongside colleagues.

The event, held at a major convention centre in Mumbai, was attended by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, SEBI Chairman TuhinKanta Pandey, senior officials, and key stakeholders from the financial market ecosystem. What began as a formal celebration of SEBI's institution-building journey over the past 38 years quickly transformed into a lively cultural performance that left the audience pleasantly surprised.

As part of a group dance medley, Varshney made his entry by moving through a troupe of colleagues and stepping into the spotlight as the popular Bollywood song "Main NiklaGaddiLeke" played in the background. Being one of SEBI's Whole-Time Members—second only to the chairman in the regulator's hierarchy—his enthusiastic participation instantly caught everyone's attention.

Witnesses described the audience as visibly stunned as Varshney confidently matched steps with fellow dancers and gradually took the lead in the performance. His energy and comfort on stage added a light-hearted and human touch to an otherwise formal institutional gathering.

The mood became even more festive when the speakers played Sukhbir's popular song "Aisha." At that point, Varshney encouraged the audience to join in, further lifting the atmosphere and turning the performance into one of the highlights of the evening.

As the medley continued, Varshney stepped aside to allow other members of the 60-person dance troupe to shine. The performance later moved into patriotic and celebratory tracks, including A.R. Rahman's iconic songs "Jai Ho" and "VandeMataram," bringing the show to a grand and emotional close.

According to one of the troupe members, around 60 SEBI staffers, including Varshney, had been rehearsing for nearly a month to prepare for the event. The effort clearly paid off, as the performance received strong appreciation from both officials and guests present at the venue.

Following the performance, SEBI Chairman TuhinKanta Pandey reportedly congratulated Varshney with a warm pat on the back, while Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also shared a few words of encouragement, acknowledging the lively and unexpected presentation.

Varshney, who was appointed as a Whole-Time Member of SEBI in 2023, is known for his



role in regulatory and market oversight. His public image is generally associated with serious policy decisions and investor protection matters, making this lighter moment especially refreshing for many observers.

The video of the performance quickly gained attention online, with many viewers praising the senior regulator for showing a more personal and relatable side. Social media users appreciated the fact that even high-ranking officials could step away from formal roles and participate in moments of joy and team spirit.

The event served as a reminder that behind every major institution are individuals who also celebrate, connect, and contribute beyond boardrooms and policy meetings.

For many, KC Varshney's dance performance was more than entertainment—it was a rare and refreshing glimpse of personality inside one of India's most powerful financial watchdogs.

Trump's Social Media Moves Keep Wall Street on Edge

US stock markets are increasingly reacting not just to economic data or Federal Reserve decisions, but to the social media posts and public remarks of President Donald Trump, with analysts saying he now holds an extraordinary grip over market sentiment.

A recent report highlighted how traders' fortunes have become closely tied to Trump's statements, especially during periods of geopolitical uncertainty involving Iran, tariffs, and oil prices. His posts on Truth Social, along with comments made during White House briefings and press conferences, have repeatedly triggered sharp swings in stocks, oil, and other financial assets.

According to research by Fundstrat, Trump's public comments have been the primary driver behind the five best and five worst days of the S&P 500 Index since he returned to office in January 2025. Analysts say no modern US president since Ronald Reagan has had this level of direct influence over daily market performance.

Fundstrat strategist Hardika Singh summed it up by saying, "He has the market in a chokehold," describing the level of control as unprecedented. The phrase has now become widely used on Wall Street to explain how quickly investors react to Trump's changing tone on tariffs, war, and trade policy.

One of the most striking examples came during the ongoing tensions involving Iran. In one case, heavy trading activity in oil futures and S&P 500 contracts was recorded just minutes before Trump posted that the United States had held talks with Iran and would halt planned strikes. Following the post, Brent crude prices fell sharply while US stocks surged nearly 4 percent from session lows. Similar patterns were reportedly observed ahead of ceasefire announcements and tariff reversals. Traders began noticing that aggressive rhetoric from Trump often pushed markets lower, while softer statements or diplomatic signals quickly triggered rebounds. This created what some investors informally called the Trumpput, the belief that market declines would eventually force policy moderation. The influence has also sparked regulatory attention. US financial regulators are reportedly examining suspiciously timed trades in oil futures and stock index contracts made shortly before major Trump announcements. Some lawmakers have raised concerns over potential insider trading and called for deeper investigations by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Market experts say the problem is not just volatility, but unpredictability. Traditional investors usually track inflation data, earnings reports, and interest rate guidance. Now, many are also watching Trump's social media feed in real time, knowing a single post can erase billions or create sudden rallies within minutes. This has made short-term trading far more sensitive and emotionally driven. Oil markets, especially, have shown extreme reactions to Trump's comments on Iran and the Strait of Hormuz, with global investors quickly shifting positions based on diplomatic signals or threats of escalation. Even major financial leaders have acknowledged this unusual pattern. Analysts note that policy communication through social media is now a direct market-moving tool rather than just political messaging. Despite the criticism, some traders have adapted and even built strategies around this pattern, betting on reversals after sharp Trump-driven selloffs. Others warn that such dependence on one individual creates systemic risk and undermines normal market discipline. For now, Wall Street appears to be accepting a new reality: market volatility is no longer driven only by economics, but also by presidential timing and tone. As long as Trump remains at the center of global political and economic headlines, investors may continue to trade not just on numbers—but on notifications.



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Hong Kong Domestic Workers’ Cardboard Box Gatherings Spark Global Debate

A viral video showing migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong spending their weekly day off sitting inside cardboard box enclosures in public spaces has triggered widespread discussion online about dignity, living conditions, and workers’ rights.

The video, shared widely on social media, shows groups of women—mostly foreign domestic helpers from countries such as the Philippines and Indonesia—using flattened cardboard boxes to create temporary spaces where they can sit, eat, talk, and rest during their only weekly holiday. These makeshift cardboard “rooms” are commonly seen in areas like Central, Causeway Bay, and other busy districts on Sundays.

For many viewers outside Hong

Kong, the images were surprising and disturbing. Several social media users questioned why workers were forced to spend their free time in such conditions, calling it a reflection of inequality in one of Asia’s richest cities. Many described the scenes as heartbreaking and said the workers deserved better treatment and proper public facilities.

However, others familiar with Hong Kong’s domestic worker culture offered a different perspective. They explained that many domestic helpers live with their employers and often have little private space of their own. On their weekly day off, gathering outdoors with friends becomes an important social activity. The cardboard boxes are used

not only for seating but also for creating privacy in crowded urban areas where open space is limited.

In Hong Kong, foreign domestic workers play a major role in supporting households, childcare, and elderly care. The city is home to hundreds of thousands of such workers, many of whom leave their families behind to earn a living abroad. Despite their contribution, they often face difficult working conditions, limited privacy, and strict employment rules. The viral video reignited debate over how these workers are treated and whether the city provides enough support for them. Rights groups have long argued that domestic helpers need stronger legal protections, better living arrangements, and more

respect for their role in society.

Some internet users pointed out that the cardboard gatherings also reflect community and resilience rather than only hardship. For the workers themselves, Sundays in public spaces can be a chance to reconnect, share food, celebrate birthdays, and find emotional support away from demanding jobs. Still, the sight of women spending precious free time in improvised cardboard shelters has raised uncomfortable questions about urban inequality and labour rights. As the video continues to circulate online, it has become more than just a viral moment—it is now a reminder of the invisible workforce that keeps much of Hong Kong running, often without the recognition or dignity they deserve.



Newborn’s Tiny Grip on Doctor’s Glove Melts the Internet

A heartwarming video of a newborn baby tightly holding a doctor’s glove moments after birth has gone viral on social media, leaving the internet smiling at the adorable scene.

The short clip captures a touching moment inside a hospital delivery room, where the newborn, still wrapped in the first moments of life, grabs onto the doctor’s gloved finger with surprising strength. The innocent gesture quickly turned into a viral sensation, with thousands of users reacting emotionally to the baby’s natural instinct and strong grip.

The video was widely shared across social media platforms, with viewers calling it one of the sweetest clips on the internet this week. Many users were amused by the baby’s grip strength, while others described the moment as symbolic of a child’s first connection with the world.

According to the viral post, the newborn seemed unwilling to let go of the doctor’s hand, creating a beautiful and unforgettable moment in the delivery room. The simplicity of the scene made it even more powerful, reminding many viewers of the emotional beauty of childbirth and new beginnings.

Social media users filled the



comment section with humorous and affectionate reactions. One user joked that the baby’s grip strength was “stronger than relationships,” while another wrote that the child had already chosen their favourite person on the very first day. Many others simply posted heart emojis and called the moment “pure happiness.”

Doctors and nurses often witness emotional scenes during childbirth, but moments like these rarely reach such a wide audience. The video stood out because of its universal emotional appeal—love, innocence, and the natural human connection that begins from birth itself.

Many parents also related to the clip, sharing their own stories of holding their newborns for the first time and the overwhelming emotions that came with it. For them, the video was more than just cute—it brought back memories of one of life’s most unforgettable experiences.

As the clip continues to gain views online, it serves as a gentle reminder that even the smallest gestures can create the biggest emotional impact. In a world often filled with stressful news, the newborn’s tiny hand holding onto the doctor’s glove offered a rare and beautiful moment of joy that resonated across the internet.

Bengaluru Man’s Ice Cream Gesture for Workers Wins Hearts Online

A heartwarming video from Bengaluru showing a man distributing ice creams to roadside workers during intense summer heat has gone viral, earning widespread praise on social media for its simple yet meaningful act of kindness.

The clip, shared on Instagram by LakshmanGoswami, captures him stopping by roadside work sites and offering ice creams to labourers and workers who were working under the harsh sun. With temperatures touching nearly 40 degrees Celsius, the small gesture brought visible smiles and moments of relief to those enduring the scorching weather.

In the caption of the video, Goswami wrote that even in 40-degree heat, a single ice cream can bring many smiles. His message quickly resonated with viewers, who appreciated the thoughtfulness behind the act and the reminder that kindness does not always require grand gestures.

Social media users flooded the comment section with ap-



preciation and emotional responses. Many called the act inspiring and said it reflected true humanity. Some users wrote that such small efforts can make a big difference in someone’s day, especially for people working outdoors in extreme temperatures.

Others praised the man for recognising the struggles of daily wage workers who often spend long hours on roadsides and construction sites without

much comfort. Many said the video served as a reminder to be more aware of the people who keep cities running while facing difficult conditions.

The video also sparked discussions about how summer heat affects outdoor workers across Indian cities. Labourers, delivery workers, traffic staff, and street vendors often continue their duties despite extreme temperatures, making even small acts of relief deeply

meaningful.

Several viewers noted that beyond the ice cream itself, the gesture represented respect and acknowledgment. For many workers, being seen and appreciated can matter just as much as the physical comfort provided.

The viral clip stood out because of its simplicity. There was no big campaign or public event—just one person deciding to make someone else’s difficult day a little easier. That sincerity is what touched people the most.

As the video continues to circulate online, it has become a symbol of everyday compassion. In a time when social media is often filled with negativity, this small act of kindness from Bengaluru reminded many that humanity can still be found in the simplest moments.

Sometimes, a single ice cream in the summer heat can do more than cool someone down—it can restore faith in kindness.

Emotional Cost of Living Abroad Beyond Money

An Indian woman living in Dublin has gone viral after sharing an emotional video about missing her cousin’s wedding in India, calling it the true “cost of living abroad” — one that goes far beyond rent, bills, and groceries.

PrachiDusad, who has been living in Ireland for the past three years, opened up on Instagram about

In the video, Prachi explained that people often ask her about the financial cost of living abroad, usually referring to expenses like rent, electricity bills, transport, and groceries. But for her, the real price is missing the moments that matter most.

She shared that while her cousin’s wedding was taking place in India, her entire “big fat Marwadi family” had gathered together to celebrate. They were dancing, singing, laughing, and enjoying every moment, while she watched everything unfold through photos and videos sent to the fam

Prachi admitted that seeing those happy moments from far away made her feel deeply emotional. She said she kept looking at every photo and video again and again, feeling a strong sense of FOMO, fear of missing out, that she had not experienced in a long time.

“I just want to go back,” she said, expressing her desire to be with her loved ones in that moment and not just watch from a distance. Her words resonated strongly with many Indians living abroad who often sacrifice family time in pursuit of better career opportunities and financial stability.



What made her story even more relatable was her explanation that the issue was not money. She said she could afford the flight tickets back home, but responsibilities and commitments tied to her life in Dublin made it impossible for her to travel immediately.

“It’s not just the money,” she explained. “I can definitely afford my flight tickets, but it’s the commitment, the life here, because of which I cannot go right now. And this exactly is the cost of living here, living abroad.”

Her statement sparked widespread reactions online, with many users agreeing that emotional distance is often the hardest part of living overseas. Several people commented that while financial success abroad may look attractive from the outside, missing family mile-

stones like weddings, birthdays, and festivals can leave a lasting emotional gap.

Many users shared their own experiences of missing important family events due to work visas, office responsibilities, studies, or long-distance travel challenges. Some said the video perfectly captured the loneliness many migrants silently carry. The viral clip has become more than just a personal story; it reflects the hidden emotional struggles of thousands of people building lives far from home. Prachi’s words serve as a reminder that the cost of living abroad is not always measured in currency. Sometimes, it is measured in missed hugs, empty chairs at family celebrations, and memories watched through a phone screen instead of lived in person.

Bengaluru Techie’s Emotional Day Out with Grandfather Wins Hearts

A heartwarming video of a Bengaluru techie taking his grandfather to the Google campus for a special day out has touched thousands online, with many calling it a beautiful reminder of love, gratitude, and family bonds.

The viral clip, shared by Manish Singh on Instagram, shows him spending a memorable day with his grandfather, lovingly referred to as “Nanaaji,” inside the Google campus where he works. From having lunch together at the office cafeteria to cycling around the campus, the video captured simple but deeply emotional moments that resonated with viewers across social media.

According to the post, the visit was not just a casual outing but a way for the young techie to thank his grandfather for the values and support he had received throughout his childhood. He shared that seeing his grandfather enjoy the experience made him feel like he was reliving his own childhood once again. He also mentioned spending time with his parents and grandfather playing carrom before deciding to recreate old memories by cycling together. The most touching part of the video, according to many viewers, was the visible happiness on the grandfather’s face. His smile during the campus visit became the emotional center of the story, with users saying it reflected pride, joy, and unconditional love. Social media users flooded the comments section with emotional reactions. Many described the gesture as “real success,” saying achievements



are not just about career milestones or high-paying jobs, but also about honouring the people who helped shape one’s journey. Others said the video reminded them of their own grandparents and the sacrifices older generations make for their families. Some users praised the techie for choosing gratitude over glamour, saying that bringing his grandfather to his workplace was far more

meaningful than any social media trend. Others called it one of the most wholesome videos on the internet this week.

The story also highlighted how emotional connections often matter more than material success. In a fast-paced city like Bengaluru, where technology and career growth dominate daily life, the video stood out for celebrating something far more personal—family.

As the clip continues to gain attention online, it serves as a gentle reminder that true success is often measured not by titles or achievements, but by the smiles we bring to the people who stood by us from the beginning. For many viewers, one joyful day at the Google campus became a powerful lesson in love, gratitude, and remembering where we come from.

KKR Edge LSG in Super Over

Kolkata Knight Riders clinched a thrilling Super Over victory against Lucknow Super Giants in a nail-biting Indian Premier League 2026 clash at Lucknow.

Batting first, KKR posted 155 for 7 in 20 overs, riding on a superb knock from Rinku Singh. The left-hander smashed 83 off 51 balls, laced with seven fours and five sixes, anchoring the innings with confidence. Cameron Green chipped in with a quick 34 off 21 balls, but

the rest of the batting line-up struggled, with several players falling for single-digit scores.

Chasing 156, LSG put up a spirited fight to level the match. Rishabh Pant top-scored with 42 off 38 balls, while Aiden Markram made 31 and Ayush Badoni added 24. The match went down to the final ball, with LSG needing seven runs to win. Mohammed Shami smashed a crucial six, tying the scores at 155 and forcing a Super Over.

In the decider, LSG faltered under pressure, losing two wickets in

just three balls and managing only a single run. KKR made light work of the target, chasing it down off the very first delivery to seal a dramatic victory.

Rinku Singh's outstanding innings stood out as the defining performance of the match, guiding KKR to a competitive total and ultimately playing a key role in their triumph.

The contest will be remembered as one of the most exciting matches of the season, highlighting the unpredictable drama and intensity of the IPL.



MS Dhoni Fit, But Chooses Not to Return for CSK Yet

Chennai Super Kings legend MS Dhoni is reportedly fully fit after recovering from a calf strain, but he is choosing not to make his comeback in IPL 2026 as he does not want to disturb the team combination or take the place of a younger player.

Dhoni, who has missed the entire season so far due to the injury, had suffered the calf strain just before the start of the tournament. Since then, fans have been eagerly waiting for his return, especially after spotting him at training sessions and traveling with the squad for away matches.

According to reports, the veteran wicketkeeper-batter has successfully completed his fitness test and is physically ready to play. However, the final decision regarding his return lies completely with him. The report claims that Dhoni is reluctant to reclaim a spot in the playing XI because he does not want to take away an opportunity from a younger player or disrupt the balance of the side in the final few league matches.

This decision has surprised

many fans, especially because CSK's middle order has struggled for consistency during the season. Many supporters expected Dhoni's return to strengthen the batting lineup and provide leadership in pressure situations.

Despite his absence, Dhoni has remained closely involved with the squad. He has attended practice sessions regularly, taken part in full training drills, and traveled with the team to matches against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Mumbai Indians, and Gujarat Titans. At Wankhede Stadium, he even completed an intense practice session before the game, leading many to believe his comeback was imminent.

CSK batting coach Michael Hussey recently addressed the situation and suggested that Dhoni would return only when he felt completely ready. He also indicated that wicketkeeping itself was not the concern, hinting that Dhoni's decision was more about match readiness and team balance than physical fitness.

One important factor behind

Dhoni's hesitation is believed to be the performance of the younger players in his absence. Reports suggest he does not want to remove a youngster who has been contributing to the team, especially when CSK has maintained a relatively settled combination in recent matches.

This season has marked an unusual phase for CSK fans, as Dhoni's absence has meant watching the team without one of its biggest icons on the field. In fact, the recent MI vs CSK clash became the first in IPL history to be played without either Rohit Sharma or MS Dhoni featuring in the contest.

While there is still hope that Dhoni may return before the season ends, his reported decision reflects the selfless leadership that has defined his career. Rather than rushing back for personal milestones, he appears focused on what he believes is best for the team.

For now, CSK supporters may have to wait a little longer to see "Thala" back in yellow, as the final call remains in Dhoni's own hands.

Pat Cummins Hails VaibhavSuryavanshi as New Favourite After IPL Ton

Rajasthan Royals' teenage batting sensation VaibhavSuryavanshi has earned high praise from Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins after smashing a breathtaking century in IPL 2026, with the Australian skipper calling the 15-year-old his "new favourite player."

Suryavanshi lit up the SawaiMansingh Stadium in Jaipur with a sensational unbeaten 103 off just 37 balls against Sunrisers Hyderabad. His explosive knock included 12 sixes and five fours, and he reached his century in just 36 deliveries, making it the third-fastest hundred in IPL history.

The young batter started his innings fearlessly, attacking from the very first over and even smashing Cummins for a six off his first ball. His aggressive approach and fearless mindset left both fans and opponents stunned.

After the match, Cummins openly praised the youngster and said, "Suryavanshi is my new favourite player. I love the



way he plays." His statement quickly went viral across social media and became one of the biggest talking points of the day in the cricket world.

Despite Suryavanshi's heroics, Rajasthan Royals could not secure victory as Sunrisers Hyderabad successfully chased down the massive target of 229 with nine balls to spare. Half-centuries from Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma powered SRH to one of the highest successful chases of the season.

Cummins, who recently returned from a lumbar injury, said modern IPL batting conditions are challenging for bowlers but exciting at the same time. He noted that flat pitches, short boundaries, and the Impact Player rule have made big chases more common, but one over or one wicket can still change the game completely.

Suryavanshi's innings also created multiple records. At just 15 years and 29 days, he became the youngest player to reach 1,000 T20 runs and the

fastest teenager to achieve the milestone, doing so in only 473 balls. It was also his fourth T20 century in just 26 matches, underlining his extraordinary rise in Indian cricket.

This is not the first time Suryavanshi has made headlines. Last season, he had already become the youngest player to score an IPL century, and now he continues to build his reputation as one of the brightest young talents in world cricket.

Fans and former cricketers have also praised his fearless style, with many comparing his natural strokeplay to street cricket freedom mixed with elite-level power hitting.

For Pat Cummins to publicly call him his favourite player at such a young age only shows how special Suryavanshi's talent truly is.

With performances like this, the teenager is no longer just a rising star—he is quickly becoming one of the biggest attractions of IPL 2026.

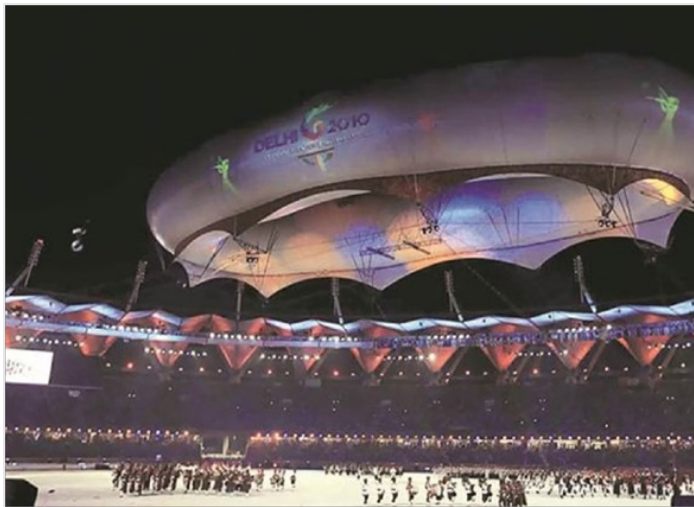


2010 CWG Shadow Lingers as India Prepares for 2030 Games

As India prepares to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games in Gujarat, the financial and legal troubles from the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games continue to burden the government even after 16 years.

According to official records and RTI replies, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports cleared outstanding dues worth Rs 28.05 crore during 2025-26, with the payment made to MTNL. In addition, around Rs 50 crore has been estimated for 2026-27 to settle remaining liabilities linked to the 2010 Games. Even today, 29 court cases related to the event are still pending in different courts.

The 2030 Commonwealth Games will be hosted in Ahmedabad during the centenary year of the event, with over 70 nations expected to participate. A recent Commonwealth Sport delegation led by president Donald Rukare and CEO Katie Sadlier visited Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, and Ekta Nagar and praised the planning and ven-



ue quality.

However, the shadow of the 2010 Delhi Games remains strong. The event, once seen as a proud moment for India, later became linked with corruption allegations, poor planning, and massive cost overruns that damaged the country's sporting reputation.

Officials said further outstanding liabilities cannot be confirmed yet because the final

amount depends on court decisions in cases that are still pending. The 29 unresolved cases involve 24 vendors, individuals, and government authorities, with the Union government being a party in each matter.

Among the major vendors still involved in disputes are Nussli Switzerland, which handled Games overlays, and the Electronics Corporation of In-

dia, which was linked to major technical contracts during the Delhi event.

Legal expenses have also remained high. Since 2010, the government has spent Rs 6.37 crore on lawyers and another Rs 6.63 crore on arbitrators and tribunals, taking total legal costs to over Rs 13 crore.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had earlier reported that the estimated cost of the Delhi Games jumped from Rs 297 crore in 2003 to Rs 18,532 crore by October 2010, leading to national outrage. In 2025, former Organising Committee chief Suresh Kalmadi was cleared of major charges after a Delhi court accepted closure reports in money laundering cases. He later passed away in January 2026.

Now, the 2030 Games are being seen as India's chance to rebuild global confidence and strengthen its Olympic ambitions. For India, hosting the Games is not just about sports—it is about proving that the mistakes of 2010 will not be repeated.

Gujarat Titans Beat CSK by 8 Wickets as Sai Sudharsan Shines Again

Chennai | April 26, 2026 | TPN

Gujarat Titans defeated Chennai Super Kings by eight wickets in their IPL 2026 clash at Chepauk, with Sai Sudharsan producing another brilliant innings to guide GT to a comfortable win.

Batting first after losing the toss, CSK managed only 158 for 7 in 20 overs. Captain Ruturaj Gaikwad remained unbeaten on 74 off 60 balls, but his slow-paced knock came under criticism as the rest of the batting lineup struggled to build momentum. Gujarat's bowlers, led by Kagiso Rabada and Mohammed Siraj, kept tight control throughout the innings and never allowed CSK to accelerate

properly.

Sanju Samson, opening for CSK, could not convert his start into a big innings despite entering the match in strong form. The middle order also failed to provide the late push expected at Chepauk, leaving CSK with a below-par total on a decent batting surface.

In reply, Gujarat Titans looked in control from the beginning. Sai Sudharsan once again proved why he is among the most consistent batters this season, scoring a superb 87 off just 46 balls. His innings was filled with elegant strokeplay and powerful hitting, keeping the required rate comfortably under control.

Shubman Gill gave GT a

steady start before being dismissed, while Jos Buttler supported Sudharsan well during the chase. Their partnership ensured there was no pressure on the visitors as they moved closer to the target with ease. GT eventually reached the target with nine balls to spare and only two wickets down.

One of the talking points before the match was whether MS Dhoni would return for CSK, but the veteran wicketkeeper-batter once again remained out of the playing XI despite reports suggesting he was fit enough to play. His continued absence remains a major concern for fans hoping to see him back this season.

Another milestone from the

match came when Sanju Samson surpassed MS Dhoni's IPL run tally, moving ahead of the CSK legend in the all-time run charts. The achievement added a personal highlight despite CSK's defeat. For Chennai, the loss raises more questions about batting intent and finishing strength, especially with playoff pressure increasing. For Gujarat Titans, the win strengthens their campaign and highlights the growing impact of Sai Sudharsan, who continues to deliver match-winning performances. With the tournament entering a crucial stage, GT look stronger with every game, while CSK must quickly find answers if they want to stay in the playoff race.





KayaduLohar Says Strong Roles Matter More Than Film Size

Actress KayaduLohar, who gained major attention with Pradeep Ranganathan'sDragon, says she does not calculate whether a film is big or small before accepting it. For her, the most important factor is the strength and importance of the character she gets to play.

The actress, who won praise for her role as Pallavi in Dragon, recently opened up about her career choices, upcoming films, and preparation process in a candid interview. She said the sudden popularity she received from Telugu audiences surprised her, and she feels happy seeing the strong following she has built in a short time.

Speaking about her upcoming Telugu project The Paradise with Nani, Kayadu revealed that she plays the role of Subbalakshmi and believes the character will help her connect even more deeply with Telugu audiences. She described the role as special and expressed confidence that the film would take her career forward. Reports also suggest that her first look from the film presents her in a very unique and unexpected avatar.

Kayadu said she prefers roles that challenge her as an actress and help her prove herself as a heroine. She explained that she is always interested in films that push her career ahead and offer meaningful performances rather than just glamorous appearances.

She also shared that legendary



filmmakers Mani Ratnam and Sukumar are among her favourite directors, and working in their films remains one of her biggest career dreams.

Talking about preparation, the actress said she does workshops before every film and only steps onto the set after gaining complete confidence about her role. If she is acting in a language she is not familiar with, she becomes even more careful and hires a language coach to perfect dialogues and accent. She also reads books and does research to un-

derstand the background of her character better.

This is where her most talked-about statement came in—Kayadu said she does not think about whether a project is big or small. If her role is important in the story, she is ready to do the film without hesitation.

She also reflected on the disappointment of film failures, mentioning that she had high hopes for Funky, but the result was discouraging. However, she said outcomes are not always in an actor's control, and after feeling bad for a couple of days, she shifts her focus to the next project.

Kayadu also shared a personal detail about her background, saying her mother tongue is Nepali. Though she was born and raised in Assam, her family has Nepali roots, and later they moved to Pune. She entered the entertainment world through modeling after being selected as a "Fresh Face" in a competition before making her film debut in Kannada cinema in 2021.

Now balancing projects across Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam cinema, KayaduLohar is steadily building a career based on performance and preparation rather than shortcuts.

With The Paradise and other major films ahead, the actress is clearly focused on one goal—choosing strong characters that leave a lasting impact.

sion among fans and film circles, especially considering the scale and expectations surrounding the project. According to reports, the biggest reason for the postponement is NTR's physical makeover. Initially, the actor reportedly lost significant weight to suit the role's demand. However, feedback on that look was said to be less than satisfactory, leading director Prashanth Neel to rethink the presentation of the character. Prashanth Neel is now said to be planning a more

powerful and mass-heavy screen presence for NTR, one that better matches his body language and larger-than-life image. For this, NTR is reportedly undergoing another transformation, this time focusing on building a stronger and more muscular look. This process naturally requires several months, affecting the overall shooting schedule. The delay is not limited to appearance alone. Reports suggest that Prashanth Neel is also reworking parts of the script to im-

prove the impact of action blocks and emotional drama. Some scenes reportedly did not meet his expectations during filming, leading him to revise important portions of the screenplay. This script refinement has reportedly forced the team to alter previously planned shooting schedules. In addition, the makers are said to be considering reshooting a few important sequences that were already completed, ensuring the final product meets the high standards expected from

a Prashanth Neel directorial. Though reshoots in a big-budget film involve major expenses, both NTR and Neel are reportedly in agreement that there should be no compromise on quality. Their focus is said to be on delivering a visually powerful theatrical experience rather than rushing for an earlier release. The makers have officially locked the global release date for June 11, 2027, making it one of the biggest upcoming releases in Indian cinema. Fans who were disap-

pointed by the delay may soon get a reason to celebrate, as the first official glimpse from the film is expected to be unveiled on May 20, coinciding with NTR's birthday. A powerful poster or glimpse revealing NTR's new look could help reduce the disappointment caused by the postponement and give fans a better idea of the film's massive scale. While the wait has become longer, expectations are only growing stronger. With Prashanth Neel's signature elevations and



NTR's intense screen presence, Dragon is being seen as a potential box-office storm.

For now, fans may have to wait until 2027—but if the makeover and delay deliver the promised impact, the wait could be well worth it.

Chiranjeevi-Bobby Film May Get Second Producer Amid KVN Productions' Challenges

Megastar Chiranjeevi's much-awaited upcoming film with director Bobby Kolli is once again making headlines, this time due to reports suggesting that another producer may join the project to support KVN Productions.

The film, tentatively referred to as "Mega 158," marks Chiranjeevi's reunion with director Bobby after the blockbuster success of Waltair Veerayya. The project is being mounted on a grand scale by KVN Productions, which is making its Tollywood debut with this prestigious venture. The film was officially launched earlier this month, with regular shooting expected to begin soon.

According to the latest industry buzz, KVN Productions has been facing multiple production-related challenges. The banner recently dealt with setbacks involving Vijay's Jana Nayagan, which reportedly faced an online leak, while Yash'sToxic was also delayed due to the ongoing situation in the Middle East. These developments are believed to have created pressure on the production house ahead of its big Telugu debut.

As a result, reports suggest that Chiranjeevi's close friend may come on board as a second producer to offer additional support and ensure the smooth progress of the film. While there is no official confirmation yet



from the makers, the move is being seen as a strategic step to avoid delays and strengthen the project's production backing.

The film itself is expected to be a major commercial entertainer with a strong emotional core. Chiranjeevi is reportedly set to play an aged gangster in the movie, a role that has already generated significant curiosity among fans. Industry reports also suggest that the daughter's character in the film will carry major importance in the storyline, adding emotional depth to the action-driven narrative.

Music director Thaman is likely to compose the soundtrack, while Nimish Ravi has reportedly been roped in as the cinematographer. The project is expected to feature a stylish pres-

entation of Chiranjeevi with Bobby's trademark mass-commercial treatment, something fans are eagerly waiting for after their previous success together.

There were also recent rumours about Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor being part of the film, but reports later clarified that he is not involved in the project. The casting details are still under wraps, and the makers are expected to reveal more information in the coming weeks.

The project had earlier faced minor postponements regarding its launch and scheduling, but insiders say work is now moving forward steadily. With Chiranjeevi returning in a powerful mass role and Bobby directing after a proven box-office success, expectations are naturally high.

Fans are particularly excited because the film is seen as one of Chiranjeevi's biggest upcoming ventures, especially after the success of his recent projects. The addition of a second producer, if confirmed, may only strengthen confidence around the film's scale and execution.

For now, the speculation continues, but one thing is clear—Mega 158 remains one of the most anticipated Telugu films in production, and every update surrounding it is drawing major attention across Tollywood.

Akira Nandan's Tollywood Debut Buzz Grows After AdiviSesh's Comments

The buzz around Akira Nandan's Tollywood debut has once again become a major talking point after actor AdiviSesh made interesting comments during the promotions of his upcoming film Dacoit. His remarks have reignited excitement among fans eagerly waiting to see PawanKalyan's son enter the film industry. For years, Akira Nandan's debut has remained one of the most discussed topics in Telugu cinema. Despite constant rumours and fan speculation, there has been no official confirmation about when he will step into films. Along with Nandamuri Mokshagna, Akira is considered one of the most awaited star kids in Tollywood. During a recent media interaction, AdiviSesh said he is just as excited as fans about Akira's debut. While he did not confirm whether he is preparing a script for him, he said that whenever Akira enters films, it will be a major sensation. His statement quickly went viral and added



fresh energy to the speculation. Sesh also revealed that he shares a friendly bond with Akira and that they meet occasionally. He praised Akira's maturity, calm nature, and clear thinking. He also mentioned that both of them are left-handed, which creates a special connection between them. At present, Akira is reportedly focusing on music studies abroad rather than preparing for an acting career. His mother, Renu Desai, has previously said that his future career choice will

depend entirely on his own decision. Fans, however, continue to hope that he will eventually choose cinema, considering his strong family legacy and huge public interest. Social media remains full of discussions and fan theories about his possible launch. For now, there is no official confirmation, but AdiviSesh's comments have once again brought Akira Nandan's debut into the spotlight, making fans even more eager for an announcement.

Actress Pragathi Recalls Nightmare Experience with a Director

Senior actress Pragathi recently opened up about one of the most difficult experiences in her film career, revealing that a director once made her professional life so stressful that she felt like she was "living through hell" during that project.

In a recent interview, Pragathi shared that during the early phase of her career, she had to work with a director who created extreme discomfort for her on set. Though she did not reveal the director's name, she said the experience was so unpleasant that she kept waiting for the film to end and for her chance to leave the project.

She explained that every day of that shoot felt like a nightmare and that she constantly wondered when the project would finally be completed. The emotional pressure was so intense that she later made a firm decision never to work with that director again under any circumstances.

Her comments quickly sparked curiosity among fans and social media



users, with many trying to guess which director she was referring to. Since Pragathi did not disclose the filmmaker's identity, the issue has now become a topic of widespread speculation online.

In the past, many actresses often avoided speaking openly about such uncomfortable experiences in the film industry due to fear or professional pressure. However, Pragathi's candid statement reflects how more women in cinema are now choosing to speak honestly about the challenges they faced behind the scenes.

Apart from discussing this bitter

memory, Pragathi also spoke about her current priorities in life and career. Known not only for her acting but also for her dedication to fitness and powerlifting, she said she remains focused on meaningful roles rather than money.

She made it clear that she would never accept a role she dislikes, no matter how high the remuneration offered. At the same time, if a role truly connects with her, she is willing to work without giving too much importance to payment.

Pragathi, who has earned respect in Telugu cinema through strong supporting roles and her inspiring fitness journey, also mentioned that she is still waiting for a good and challenging character to make a strong impact on screen once again.

Her honest revelation about the difficult director has now become a major talking point in Tollywood, while fans continue to admire her courage in speaking openly about a painful chapter from her past.

NTR's Makeover Pushes Prashanth Neel's Dragon to 2027

Young Tiger NTR and director Prashanth Neel's much-awaited film Dragon has reportedly been pushed to 2027, and the main reason behind the delay appears to be NTR's major physical transformation for the role. The film, one of the most anticipated pan-India projects in Telugu cinema, was expected to arrive earlier, but reports now suggest that the makers have decided to postpone it by nearly a year to ensure top-quality output. The delay has created major discus-

sion among fans and film circles, especially considering the scale and expectations surrounding the project. According to reports, the biggest reason for the postponement is NTR's physical makeover. Initially, the actor reportedly lost significant weight to suit the role's demand. However, feedback on that look was said to be less than satisfactory, leading director Prashanth Neel to rethink the presentation of the character. Prashanth Neel is now said to be planning a more

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